
July 1996

CDXC - The UK DX Foundation

Issue 102

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: AUGUST 7th (LATE NEWS 21st)

CHILTERN DX CLUB - The UK DX Foundation - Aims and Objectives

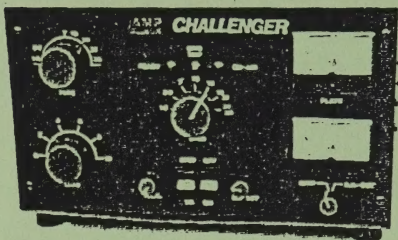
"The aim of the Club is to promote HF operating, to encourage excellence, particularly in DXing and contest operating, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries worked on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

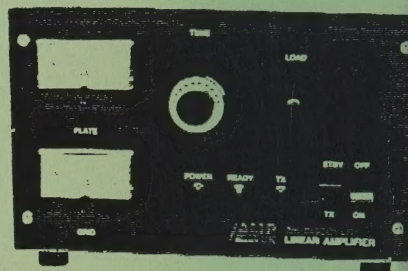
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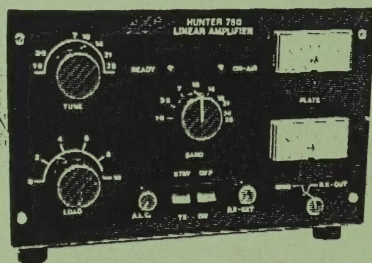
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EDITORIAL

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

As I compile this NewsLetter, I am listening to CY0AA early in the DXpedition, on 20m SSB. He has just asked the rest of Europe to QRX, while he works all the G stations he can hear. The reason? I quote: "*Because the British played a major part in the funding of this DXpedition*". This is as a direct of result of funding by CDXC and the RSGB HF Committee. CDXC funding comes, as I am sure you realise, from our subscriptions; RSGB HF Committee comes, in the main, from the HF Convention raffle takings. Of course, standing by for G stations made it very easy for me to get a QSO - second call in fact. Ironically, a couple of days later, I got my SSB QSL from CY0TP's operation last October, although my CW QSL was returned "*not in log*". Never mind, I just worked CY0AA on 20m CW, so hopefully I'll get a reply to that QSL. It's always a dilemma knowing whether to have an insurance QSO to avoid the dreaded "*not in log*"; I have adopted a policy of only one QSO per mode per band, but have paid the penalty on a few occasions such as with CY0TP, VP8SGP, and XZ1A.

The HF Convention organisation is now well under way. This year I have elected not to show SHACKLOG, as I feel it's time that I went to a few lectures! I haven't been to more than the odd lecture since the last time the convention was held near Oxford; I think that was in 1989, or thereabouts! I know that a number of the committee members feel the same way - Dave G0HXN, and Mike G4PFF, in particular, have been valiantly manning the CDXC stand for two solid days at the last few conventions, and hardly managed to get to any of the lectures or other events. So, how about giving them a break this year? We have 260 members, many of whom will be going to the convention. I'm sure we could set up a rota, whereby members manned the CDXC stand for just an hour, perhaps two members at a

time I'm sure Dave, G0HXX, would be delighted to hear from you if you could spare an hour. It's quite unreasonable to expect committee members to be tied to the stand for the duration. Also in this issue, you will find a plea from Fred Handscombe, G4BWP, who is a member of the convention organising team. Fred is asking for help for various aspects of the convention - please help out if you can.

By the time you read this, the ARM and EGM will be over, and we will have a new committee and, if all goes to plan, a new constitution too. Roger Balister, G3KMA, who has been President for two years, is standing down, and I will not be standing as Editor again, having done three years in the job, following a year as Secretary. I have indicated my willingness to remain on the committee if there is a role that I can play that is not too time consuming. I have to say that I will miss producing the NewsLetter. I have really enjoyed being Editor, even though it is quite demanding on time. I'm not certain who the next Editor will be; Bren G4DYO, has very kindly volunteered - and I think it unlikely there will be any other challengers! Bren is extremely well qualified for the position, having been Editor of the RSGB's DX News Sheet for more than ten years, and I know he will do a great job if elected. Whoever does get elected, I wish him/her well, and will try to give my support by submitting the odd article. Being Editor is quite rewarding if there is a steady supply of good articles, but can be very depressing if you have a deadline to meet, and you have to scrape the barrel for articles, so please support the new Editor with lots of good articles - whether large or small, they will all be appreciated. I'd like to thank all those who have contributed to the NewsLetter whilst I have been Editor; after all it's the quality of the content that makes the NewsLetter and, for the most part, that is determined by the contributors, not by the Editor! So, a big thank you to all. Thanks also for all the kind comments that have been

made about the NewsLetter - they are always appreciated. I'd also like to give a very big thank you to Neville, G3NUG, and to Trish, Neville's XYL. It is probably not widely known that all the work of organising printing, and of stuffing and mailing envelopes for the NewsLetter has been undertaken by Neville and Trish for the last couple of years (I suspect most of the work is carried out by Trish!). As our membership has grown (it's doubled in the last two years), the task of NewsLetter distribution has grown with it. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank Beryl, my XYL, for her support and forbearance over the last three years!

I first came across CDXC at the HF Convention in Oxford in the late eighties - I was just getting back into amateur radio after a break of many years, and had just got bitten by the DX bug. I doubt whether I had worked 100 countries then, and CDXC membership seemed to be something I would never achieve! Little did I know that I would soon end up on the Committee for four (or more!) years!

I recently received a QSL from Pedro, HK3JJH, for his operation from Isla Palma, SA-078. He enclosed a note saying "*Please help me, IRC's are not valid here*". This is news to me - I always send IRCs with QSLs mailed to Central and South America, as I consider them to be less vulnerable to stealing than green stamps, and I get a good response rate, so it doesn't really seem to be a problem. Does anyone have any information on this? Is it new? Does it apply to other countries in Central and South America?

A little bird tells me that Martin Lynch, G4HKS will reach the ripe old age of 40 years on August 16th this year. Congratulations, Martin, and remember - life begins at 40!

My thanks as always to this issue's contributors plus DXNS, KB8NW/OPDX/BARF80, G0CGL, G0PHN and G3VMW. See you at the HF Convention.

73, Alan Jubb, G3PMR

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

By the time that members receive this NewsLetter the brochure and booking form for the RSGB 1996 International HF and IOTA Convention will have been circulated widely. We have built a Convention mailing list at RSGB HQ that includes all CDXC members, DXNS subscribers, all those on the IOTA database and past visitors. Also included are British Isles stations who have been active in HF contests during the past year, DXCC members, GM DX Club members and RSGB HF awards applicants. This mailing list should prove to be a valuable tool for future Convention mailings and should include nearly all those interested in HF activities. We have also written to around 50 overseas magazines and newsletters.

Firmed up lectures now include:

- HF Amplifiers by Peter Rodmell, G3ZRS
- The DXCC Programme by Bill Kennamar, K5FUV
- Tower Safety - Strumech Engineering
- The ZL8RI Kermadec Is. DXpedition - Ron Wills, ZL2TT
- HF Contest Forum - HF Contests Committee
- Myanmar - DXing from the Golden Land - the Story of XZ1A by Bill Kennamar, K5FUV
- A New Vision for IOTA - IOTA Committee
- The XR0Y Easter Is. DXpedition - Vincent Denecker G0LMX
- The History of BERU - Bob Whelan,

G3PJT.

Several of these talks will be given twice. We hope to publicise the final programme including timings of lectures during the next few weeks. Some further lectures are planned including one on the new 73 kHz LF band.

A fine social programme is planned and the Beaumont have promised to upgrade the menus and pay particular care to the food following last year's disappointments. DXCC card checking will again take place and a demonstration station will be set up with the Yaesu FT-1000 MP and Explorer linear.

We are delighted to be sponsored again by Martin Lynch and Son, the RSGB and Yaesu UK Ltd. Barry G4RKO of Yaesu has donated a FT-990AT transceiver as the major raffle prize. This is a most generous gesture -- this particular transceiver sells for around £2000.00.

The mailing of around 2000 brochures has been restricted to the UK and Europe in order to maintain control over costs. If any members know of potential visitors outside Europe then additional copies of the brochure and booking form can be obtained from Fay Huxley 2E1EUA at RSGB HQ. (Tel: No: 01707 659015 or Fax: 01707 645105).

Places at the DX Dinner on the Friday evening 4 October and at the sit-down IOTA Buffet on Saturday evening 5 October are limited, as is the accommodation, so early booking is advised. Bookings can be made by telephone on the above number.

I've been taking advantage of the recent excellent weather to re-organise the antennas here and have replaced the 150 meter run of RG67 with the very low loss Helix LDF 4 and Pacific 10D-SFB coax. The LDF4 feeds a remote switch box 100 meters from the

shack and the HF antennas are now fed from that box with 10D-SFB which is much more flexible than LDF4. I have been amazed by the results. I had the two cables in parallel for some time and the average improvement on receive was 1½ S points or 9 dB on 20m and 2½ S points or 15 dB on 10m. The performance on transmit has also improved at least as well as on receive and I am really delighted with the results. The installation took quite a time as the LDF4 needs to be supported every 2 feet.

I also upgraded one of the Versatower masts from a heavy duty to an extra heavy duty version. This now carries the 4 element 40 meter beam at 100 feet and that too works like a dream. The feed point is actually 150 meters from the shack but losses should now be negligible.

Trish managed to catch one of the guys that was lying on the ground in the tractor cutter. Words were said but all is now forgiven!

The boom to mast bracket that was described in a previous NewsLetter and subsequently written up in RadCom worked well. I have had about 12 enquiries about these brackets and a number suggested that I should patent the design. I did in fact look into this but discovered that you cannot patent a design once it has been published. Also the costs are significant and to make it worthwhile one really needs to have a manufacturer's backing.

I have had an interesting problem with my computer during recent weeks. It's a Dell 486/66 and it kept on crashing when linked to the cluster. I use a DRSI card with BPQ code as a TNC for the cluster - this gives me an additional serial port that I need since the two existing serial ports are used for linking the MP to Turbogol 3 and for the Internet modem.

This looked like an interrupt conflict situation and I tried everything I could think of to solve the problem including removing

all the other cards including a DVP and SCSI card, disconnecting the serial points and the printer, remming out all the TSRs etc. The machine still crashed but only when running the BPQ code which is a very complex TSR. At this stage I asked John G3WGV to have a look at the beast. John substituted his own DRSI card and the machine still crashed. A hardware problem? Yes, it was! In fact John reduced the speed of the computer from 66 MHz to 40 MHz and the crashes stopped. Apparently, faults do occur on 66 MHz DX2 machines when processing highly complex software and after they have been in use for some time. This saga may be of interest to those members with fast machines.

The transfer of IOTA administration to RSGB HQ has been proceeding well with all accounting and finance and publication distribution transferred. The IOTA computer system on which all IOTA awards are processed has also been set up at HQ and checkpoints now send their disks there. In due course when the newly designed certificates are available (designs should be shown at the forthcoming HF Convention) these will be distributed from HQ together with plaques and shields. A substantial number of standard letters have been set up to enable enquiries to be processed promptly.

Improved arrangements have been put in place for the publication of the first RSGB 1997 IOTA Directory and Yearbook. This 96 page publication will be launched at the Convention and will contain much interesting and informative material including updated island listings.

Finally, congratulations to CDXC member Denise Morris G-20414/RS94751 who has just received her licence as *M0ADG*.

Hope you enjoy the ARM, EGM and Summer Social here at Further Felden on 6 July.

JOTTINGS of the SECRETARY

Dave Mann, G0HXX

Well ARM time is upon us yet again, and hopefully whilst you are reading this the sun will be shining after what can only be described as one of the longest winters we have known in the UK for many a year. I'm writing this just before the Bank Holiday at the end of May and looking out the shack window - it's pouring with rain and the temperature is hovering at about 14°C, but this same time last year it was well up into the mid 20's. But at least we know that the rest of the world is experiencing weird and wonderful weather and some of the places in Canada had minus temperatures last week and two days ago they were sweltering up in the mid 30's.

I had occasion last weekend to have to make a duty trip to one of my son's in Weymouth. This coincided with the QRP Convention put on by the Yeovil Radio Club and as it was on the way (well sort of) I dropped in and was happy to meet up with CDXC member Don McLean G3NOF and G3ZAY's Uncle (Not a member, shame on you Martin). It is always nice to meet members on my jaunts around the country, but I think one of the strangest that I have ever come across was recently in the sleepy village of Shinfield Berkshire during their Summer Fete, there unbelievably trust up in the stocks having wet sponges thrown at him for the benefit of the Rover Scouts was our illustrious ex-Chairman G3WGV. Nice one John, bet you thought nobody would ever see you? (Needless to say I couldn't resist the temptation). *Ed: see item later in the Newsletter on this one!*

Another occasion I take great delight in attending is the increasingly popular Phil Weaver Lunch Club held periodically at the Cricketers in Bagshot, Surrey when ever Phil is passing through the country on his way to somewhere else. This time it was the day before he flew out to take up his new

residence in Bangkok. Elsewhere in the NewsLetter you will read of his exploits aboard the QE2. Quite a few members and their station managers manage to have a very sociable two hours or so talking either radio, travel or lace making dependent on what side of the table you are sitting. So next time a message is posted on the Cluster and you are at a loose end and nearby come along - the food is good, and the beer I am told is reasonable and the company is great.

As you may know this edition is the last one that Alan (G3PMR) will be editing as pressure at work has built up for him. I would like to take this opportunity of saying thank you to Alan and his good lady for the hospitality shown when the Committee has had occasion to visit the PMR QTH for a meeting. As in all clubs there is always a shortage of people who are willing to stand for office be it in a small way, or in a major way. The Editor's job is a big one and the hunt for a replacement for Alan has been lengthy. We are lucky to have re-found Bren (G4DYO) who has again volunteered to act as Editor, unless of course there is new blood within the club who would like to have a go. Our numbers are now growing and we have topped the 250 mark, and I hear some grumbles about "quantity before quality". As the UK DX Foundation our responsibility to further the aims of DX, and for that we need money, and more members equals more money Q.E.D. We are now represented around the World, not just in a little corner of England. As Neville has put the question in his last address, which should be more important: CDXC or The UK DX Foundation? I believe that the quality of amateur who is enrolling now still has the aims of the old Chiltern DX Club at heart even though the majority live miles away from the Chiltern Hills, the relaxing of the rules from "confirmed" to "worked" has I feel not been detrimental to the Club at all, but has allowed those of you who don't believe in sending cards but excel in DX to be a member of a like-minded group. Having

said that I would like to draw your attention to one of our ex listener members RS94751 Denise from up there in Cumbria. Well Denise had 259 countries and 244 IOTA confirmed as a listener. Now she has taken and passed her RAE and Morse and has been allocated the Callsign *M0ADG*

And if I may quote from her charming letter which I have just received *"You can imagine how thrilled I am to have achieved my dream, and now I can start all over again on the country and island trail.....I really enjoy C.W. From a very chuffed M0"* That to me is what amateur radio is all about , and what we as a Club should encourage. Well done Denise and hopefully you will soon be up to those totals again before long. Hope to meet you on air one day. Letters like that really make my day. 73 to you all and if we don't meet at the ARM hopefully may see you at the Convention.

Dave G0HXN

LETTERS

Dear Ed,

As a new member I have just received my second edition of the NewsLetter and must compliment you on the standard of the magazine.

As an SWL I was very interested in your comments in the Editorial this time round, and thought a few comments from this side of the fence may be of interest. I also act as QSL manager for G3XBF, GB2DTS, GB2LNE & GB4OS, so I am also on the receiving end of listener QSLs.

I have to say first of all that there is very little in your comments that I disagree with, although I cannot recall any occasions where an SWL card I received did not contain the call sign of the station we were working.

For my own part, all the cards I send out are computer produced. This firstly ensures that

I do not inflict my abysmal writing on the recipient, but also, with different type-faces and font styles, enables me to put more information on the card. As a matter of course I try to put a comment about band conditions, whether other stations from that region were audible, and if so how strong relatively they were, and if the logging was a new country/square for me. I will also include, date, time (UTC), frequency (not band), mode, report, station worked (or if it was an unsuccessful CQ), my RX and antenna, and for VHF the beam heading and distance (if I logged the QRA in full)

With my other hat on, we don't get too many SWL cards with that level of detail, but on the other hand we also get very few of the "you were 59+ from round the corner" ones either. For the most part they are usually accurate, although we do get some from Europe which seem to show Central European Time (without saying so). By far the worst problem is deciphering the writing, and those from G are no better than the rest and many of the licensed fraternity are equally bad. However I find it difficult to complain over much as it is also a major headache for me to try to read the writing of some of our own operator's log entries. The powers that be would have a field day (pun intended) if they ever tried to inspect some of the logs!

Another problem we do have is with dates. In the UK we are used to using the dd/mm/yy format, but in the US they always use mm/dd/yy and in Europe yy/mm/dd is not uncommon. For a special event station this isn't usually a problem to match the log entries, but for regular callsigns it does create difficulties. I try to remember to put the name of the month, e.g. 6th May 96, so there can be no confusion.

For our part we always return a listener QSL, either with a confirmation if it does agree with the log, or return their card with a "sorry no corresponding log entry" if it

does not. Most of our members (and I suspect many CDXC members as well) started their interest in Amateur Radio as Short Wave Listeners and as a Club we wish to encourage them. Apathy, or even hostility, towards SWL cards by today's DXers will ensure that in the future there will be a gradual reduction in interest and new blood joining the hobby.

As listeners we cannot ask for repeats of call signs or reports, so we have to learn to improve our receiving techniques to ensure that we get the information first time. By encouraging the SWLs (and responding to QSLs is just one way) the Amateur movement will ensure a plentiful supply of experienced Short Wave users to join the ranks of the Licensed Amateurs, and as experienced users they should have the necessary knowledge to ensure they follow the proper operating procedures from day one.

Finally, if you are too mean to send one of your own cards to an SWL, at least sign his (or hers) as confirmation and return it. Many awards managers will accept this as verification.

Mick BRS31976

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Dear Editor,

With reference to issue No 101, I have the following comments/points to make:

The article on 'Operating Hints' by G4IFB - I have always sent CQ as one group, i.e. CQ and the same goes for DX. Well over 90% of such calls that I hear are sent the same way, and I certainly regard it as a procedural abbreviation the same as MI, BT, BK, etc.

The new Cushcraft R7000 antenna - My first thought was - why does Bill want an antenna like that when he already has a very good set-up!? However, I guess that Bill, like

many DXers, is looking for a simple but effective antenna for all-round, all band, monitoring. Many of us need something along these lines, but a multi-band GP with radials, guy ropes etc. can become an untidy beast.

Perhaps someone with experience of the many different multi-band verticals on the market (from Hy-gain, Butternut, Cushcraft, GAP etc.) can give some useful pointers to the best solution for an omni-directional multi-band antenna.

73s Clive, G3NKG

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Alan,

A salutary lesson!!

Having got (eventually) my PA3CXC/ST0 card, I happily handed it in at Dayton for checking. I was stupid enough not to have carefully looked it over, as Don Search rejected it. It was all filled in except for one thing - no call sign!! That line was blank.

K1ZZ of ARRL jokingly suggested that I should be able to get a good price for it in the flea market at Dayton!

However, the moral is - Look carefully at cards before submitting them. It's not so bad if you're submitting in person, but still do it.

(And I'm still one country short of Honor Roll! - worked, not confirmed)

73, Peter Chadwick, G3RZP

Alan,

Re PA3CXC/ST0

Happy ending!! I've got a new card, properly filled out. I need to work (and QSL) one new country, and get cards from two (FT5 Kerguelen and ZL8) to reach Honor Roll.

73, Peter G3RZP

Dear Alan

Thank you for your letter of 16th April.

Of course I would be glad to write an article. It would have to be on the ZS64RI Robben Island DXpedition. The Seal Island one has to wait until later in the year as, due to adverse weather conditions, landing in very rough seas would be downright dangerous. Once the northwesterlies expire in September it will be OK. The logistics require that only 2-3 persons be on the island at any one time, and that the stay is limited to about five hours, after which another team is boated or helicoptered out. We also cannot afford to use the zodiac, which easily capsizes, as we would probably have a good chance of becoming a breakfast for the many great whites continuously cruising about the island! We are experimenting with means of fixing a beam and tent, as there is no vegetation, nor means of putting in securing pegs for guy wires etc. Probably we will use engineering suction pads, or drill into the smooth rocks. This is why we have to delay matters.

I sincerely hope that the ZL8RI DXpedition has satisfied more Gs than I was able to do. We have found it very difficult (*in* ZS) even to hear them, and so far, I have not managed to work them. Our window lasts about 20 minutes and then they seem to be beaming elsewhere. I do not need ZL8 as I worked Ron in 1984, but so many ZS stations do.....! WE need one when the propagation gets up in say 1998/9. As I have permission to go when I want, I may do another trip then.

My trip to 3B6 is delayed also, due to my XYL having to be away in Hong Kong frequently this year, as our daughter is expecting, and this would be our first grandchild! But it is possible in November.

So everything is in a state of flux. Regarding my Bouvet trip, I am trying desperately to arrange to get back! I can get there on a

Russian or SA vessel, but they cannot wait. So the logistics require that I go down on one and somehow time the return by the other. It is not the sort of island that one could spend many months or more on!! Another possibility is Banaba. The vessel which took me to VR6 and ZL8 is possibly able to take me from a nearby island to which I can fly. Just timing co-ordination is required.

Best 73

Barry Fletcher, ZS1FJ

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Ed: The following (dated 30th April) is an answer to my letter to G4LVQ regarding the IOTA Committee's initiative to help to progress outstanding IOTA QSLs.

Dear Alan

Thank you for submitting your list of outstanding IOTA QSLs. The response has been quite remarkable; at this present time I've had 75 letters reporting 385 different call signs from whom QSL cards have not been received. Some of these were reported by as many as thirty of you, others only once. As you will recall, when we embarked on this project, the criteria set was that once a call sign had been reported on more than ten occasions, Neville G3NUG would contact the operator or operators and offer our assistance in resolving the problem; i.e. if they sent us a copy of their logs we would arrange for the outstanding QSLs to be dealt with free of charge from the UK. It was not envisaged that either myself or Neville would act personally as QSL managers, nor was it practical to assume that we would contact every call sign reported, which was why the criteria was set at ten reports.

At today's date, eighteen separate operations had met the criteria set. Neville has written to seventeen of these, we are unable to find one address. It is with regret that we have to report

that we have not received any logs. We are aware that some of you have received QSL cards from some of these operations since you wrote your letters, but whether this is as a result of our efforts we have no idea. At this present time, we have eight persons in the UK who have offered their services as QSL managers, and also three sources of free QSL cards. It seems that none of those contacted are willing to make the effort to use our services; they prefer to leave you without your QSL card. We shall, however, continue to exert pressure to try and ensure a more favourable outcome.

For those of you who use the bureau I must point out that there is a significant number of IOTA activators who flatly refuse to use the QSL bureau. This is very much to be regretted, and despite efforts to persuade them to change their attitude, it appears that they will continue to boycott cards received through the QSL bureau. As these people are often not prepared to state openly that they will not respond to bureau cards, it can make the choice of "Do I send via the bureau or direct" impossible to make.

You may not have seen Neville's May RadCom IOTA column. We would welcome comments on the QSL ethics issue.

please be assured we shall continue our efforts, but at present, success eludes us.

Good hunting.

Bob Williams, G4LVQ

9N, NEPAL

Just a REMINDER! By the time you read this Brad/KV5V and his XYL Patricia/KB5KVV will be in Kathmandu operating from 9N1ARB's and 9N1RHM's QTH (using their callsigns). Brad stated he is going to try to spend most of his operating time on CW and RTTY (CW being his preferred mode), because Dick and Rich (9N1ARB and 9N1RHM) work phone

almost daily. Brad also reports that Dick and Rich will be active on RTTY and HF Packet when he leaves because he brought the materials which are needed to get their PK232MBX's going. Brad's operating day starts on phone and then he will switch to CW or RTTY after announcing frequencies and times. Operation will only be on 20 meters and he will be on the air daily, Sunday through Thursday, U.S. time (Whitewater rafting on Friday and Saturday, local time in Nepal!). QSL both callsigns to KV5V.

KH4, MIDWAY ISLAND

An international team of operators including members of the Central Arizona DX Association announced plans to conduct a Multi/Multi style DXpedition to Midway Island the first part of August, 1996. The group plans to operate on all bands and will concentrate on CW, SSB and RTTY. As with prior operations to Midway, there will be special emphasis on accommodating EU and AF. Frank Smith, AH0W/OH2LVG, who is heading up this effort, will have more details in the next few weeks. QSL route will be KE7LZ.

NEW DX WEB-SITES

JA6IMJ announced on the Internet that a new Japanese DX Web Cluster is available at: <http://www.big.or.jp/~ham/dx.html>

The WEB page for the South Sandwich Island DX Group is now up and running. The URL is: <http://ocean.st.usm.edu/~gejones/ssidxghp.html>

The Oklahoma DX Association announces the OKDXA WWW Site. Please point your web browser to: <http://www.pcok.com/~n5ogp/okdxa/>

HK0, MALPELO ISLAND

It is reported that Bert, HK5JPS, said at Dayton's HamVention that a group of HK's are planning an operation next February.

ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION

Ken Chandler, G0ORH

Welcome to the Advance Contest information section of CDXC NewsLetter. A fairly quite month for contesting apart from the IOTA contest at the end of July. There should be lots of new IOTA Islands to keep the avid DXer and contest multiplier hunter very happy, that is if the band conditions are as good as last year's event. Hopefully there will be a few JAs putting in an effort, just to make things more interesting, this year. I spoke to quite a few JAs on 20m CW, in May and the response seems to be good from them, so fingers crossed on propagation etc.

NFD has come and gone again. There were 92 registered entries this year so an improvement on entries from last year. I hope that a few of you have thought about the proposals for future of NFD, i.e., OPEN meaning fully, RESTRICTED meaning back to basic paper logging with no computers, no extra receivers, SINGLE Transmitter etc., and lodged your views to the RSGB HFCC. Your views are much sought after. It is only by pulling ideas from YOU, that changes are implemented so do feel free to have your say.

Of course, you are all now fully aware that the Summer 1.8MHz CW contest is no longer with us, the RSGB HFC Committee, took the unanimous decision to withdraw the contest from RSGB calendar (next year) after much discussion and debate. For these meetings, one day is not long enough, not when you consider all the business that has to be got through, but we managed to push through some important topics on the agenda, just.

CONTEST RESULTS

21 / 28MHz SSB CONTEST OCTOBER 95 (Sponsor RSGB)

Congratulations to CDXC Member Dave Sharred G3NKC, for his fine win in the 21/28MHz SSB contest 1995. This was a runaway victory for Dave who wins the RSGB Whitworth Trophy with a comfortable 46 QSO cushion above his nearest rival G4NOK, and some 20,000 points clear. Results are shown below courtesy of RSGB contest results.

Posn	Call	QSO	Pts	Score
1+	G3NKC	356	1035	72,864
2	G4NOK	310	931	51,370
3	G4DUW	282	837	48,222
4	GW4CC	234	701	35,751
5	G3MXH	206	593	35,169
6	G3TTJ	212	632	33,020
7	G4IRC/P	229	686	31,556
8	G3MGW	212	627	29,510
9+	G4TSH/P	166	477	26,892
10	GM3POI	146	437	23,598
11+	G3LZQ	194	582	22,698
12+	G3XTT	160	480	19,680
13+	G0ORH	127	366	16,764
14	G4SRS/P	131	393	15,327
15+	G4ODV	105	315	14,805
16	G0DLR	125	375	12,000
17	G4WAC	92	276	8,004
18	G2QT	65	192	4,875
19	G0UZF/P	40	120	2,760
20	G0CRW/P	36	108	1,944
21	G3JRM	25	75	1,275
22	G0PBV	7	81	1,134
23	G0ATG	3	87	1,080
24+	G0AEV	19	57	570
	28MHz only			
25	G0TSM	16	48	528
	28MHz only			
26	G4KDL	7	21	105

+ = CDXC member

21/28MHz SWL SECTION

Posn	Call	QSO	Pts	Score
1+	BRS32525	64	192	7,044
2	BRS28198	50	150	5,100
3	BRS20249	38	116	2,032

+ = CDXCMember.

EUROPEAN SPRINT CONTEST (CW) 1995

G4BUO 197 QSOs 2nd Place.

G0IVZ 174 QSOs

GM4SID 122 QSOs

G0WJF 110 QSOs

G0JQN 71 QSOs

G4OTY 15 QSOs

EU SPRINT SSB 1995

GW4BLE 85 QSOs - Only UK entrant

CONTEST RULES

11th IARU HF CHAMPIONSHIP (RADIO SPORT) (Sponsor IARU/ARRL)

When: Second full weekend in July (July 13-14 1996)

Time: 1200 UTC Saturday - 1200 UTC Sunday. Both single/multioperator stations may operate for the full 24Hr period.

Bands: Use 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m bands Excluding 10MHz, 18MHz, 24MHz.

Eligibility: All licensed amateurs world - wide.

Object: To contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society stations around the world.

Categories:

Single operator - phone only, CW only and mixed mode. One person performs all operating and logging functions. Use of

spotting nets are not permitted. All operators must observe the limits of their operator's licence at all times. Single-operator stations are only allowed one transmitted signal at any given time.

Multi-operator-single transmitter, mixed mode must remain on a band for at least 10 minutes at a time, and only one transmitted signal at any one time.

EXCEPTION: Only IARU member society HQ stations may operate simultaneously on more than one band, with one transmitter on one band/mode. Only one HQ station callsign per member society per frequency band is permitted. All operators to observe the limits of their licence.

Contest exchange: IARU member society HQ stations send signal report and official IARU member society abbreviations. All other stations send RS/T and ITU zone, UK is 27. A complete exchange must be logged for a valid QSO.

Valid contacts:

A) The same station may be worked once per band-mode. Mixed-mode entries may work a station once per mode, but only in the generally accepted portions of that band for that mode. Reworking a station in the phone section of the band on CW is not permitted. Example, on any band, a station may be worked once on phone and once on CW (in the CW section of the band) for additional QSO credits. However, this counts as only one multiplier. Where contest preferred segments are incorporated in regional band plans, participants are requested to observe them.

B) The use of non-amateur radio means of communication (e.g. the telephone, as if you would!) for the purpose of soliciting a contact or contacts during the contest is inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the contest.

QSO points:

Contacts within your own ITU zone and QSOs with ALL IARU HQ MEMBER SOCIETY stations count ONE point.

Contacts within your own continent (but different ITU zone) count THREE points.

Contacts with a different continent count FIVE points.

Multipliers: Total number of ITU zones plus IARU member-society HQ stations worked on each frequency band. (NOTE: HQ stations do not count for zone multipliers).

Scoring: Multipliers times the total number of QSO points.

Reporting: Entries must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the contest. No late entries will be accepted. You may submit your entry on disk, upload your entry to ARRL HQ BBS or simply send your entry to ARRL HQ, and via Internet to: Contest@arrl.org. If you don't have computer disk facility send your entry on paper. Logs must indicate band, mode, date, time in UTC, call signs and complete exchanges (sent-received), multipliers and QSO points. Multipliers should be clearly marked in the log the first time they are worked. Entries with more than 500 QSOs must include a cross check dupe sheets.

Awards: A certificate will be awarded to the highest scoring CW-only, phone-only, mixed-mode, and, multioperator entrant in each state, each ITU zone, and each DXCC country. In addition, achievement-level awards will be issued to those making 250 QSOs, or having a multiplier total of 50 or more. Additional awards may be made at the discretion of each country's IARU member-society.

Conditions of entry:

Each entrant agrees to be bound by the IARU/ARRL announcement, by the regulations of his/her licensing authority and be the decisions of the ARRL awards committee, acting for the IARU secretariat.

Disqualifications: An entry may be disqualified if the overall score is reduced on checking by more than 2%. Score reductions does not include corrections or mathematical errors. An entry may be disqualified if more than 2% of duplicates are left in the log for which points are claimed. A THREE-QSO reduction will be implemented for each duplicate QSO found during log checking or for each mis-copied call sign.

LOW POWER FIELD DAY (CW) (Sponsor RSGB)

The general rules for RSGB HF contests RadCom (Sept 95) apply.

When: 0900 - 1200 and 1300 - 1600 UTC, Sunday 14 July 1996.

Sections: a) 10W RF output maximum, b) 3W RF output maximum. Single or multioperator entries will be accepted for both sections.

Mode and Frequencies: 3510 - 3560kHz and 7010 - 7040kHz CW only. Both bands may be used during each session. ANY STATION (INCLUDING OVERSEAS) may be contacted once on each band.

Special conditions:

a) The power from all parts of the station must be derived from batteries, pre charged accumulators or wind driven generators, or natural sources such as solar cells. Float charging accumulators from petrol gas or diesel driven generators is not permitted.

b) The transmitter or outboard PA must not be capable of RF output power in excess of 15 Watts.

c) Antennas must not exceed 11m above ground and may have no more than 2 elevated supports.

d) The station must be portable.

Exchange: RST, serial number, County code and RF output power in Watts. Serial numbers commence at 001, and continue through both sessions. Output power should be expressed as one or two digits plus 'W' in place of the decimal point, e.g. 10W, 1W, 1W5, (1.5W), 0W1, (100mW). Participants using more than 10W may send QRO instead.

(QRO stations are not eligible to enter the contest but are welcome to give away points).

Scoring: 15 points for each QSO with a QRP portable or mobile station; 10 points for a QRP fixed station; 5 points for all other QSOs. For the purposes of scoring, QRP stations are those using 10W RF OUTPUT OR LESS.

Logs: Address and closing date for logs as general rules.

Awards: The Houston-Fergus and Southgate Trophies to the winners of sections a) & b) respectively. Certificates to the first three entrants in each section and to the QRP fixed station submitting a check log and giving the most points to entrants.

ISLANDS ON THE AIR (IOTA) CONTEST 1996.

1) GENERAL.

The aim of this contest is to promote contacts between stations qualifying IOTA island groups and the rest of the world and to encourage expeditions to IOTA islands. UK entrants must be RSGB members, see the general rules for HF contests published in September 95 RadCom.

Note: mainland G/GM/GW = IOTA EU-005, mainland GI/EI = IOTA EU-115.

2) WHEN.

1200 - 1200UTC Saturday 27 July to Sunday 28 July 96.

3) BANDS AND MODES.

3.5, 7, 14, 21, AND 28MHz, CW and SSB. IARU band plans must be observed, and CW contacts must be made only in the recognised CW ends of the bands. Contest preferred segments must also be observed, i.e., no operation must take place on 3.56 - 3.6MHz, 3.65 - 3.7MHz, 14.06 - 14.125 and 14.3 - 14.35MHz.

4) CATEGORIES

(a) Single operator. CW only, SSB only, or Mixed mode.

(b) Single operator limited. CW only, SSB only or mixed mode. Operation is limited to 12 hours, and contacts on any THREE bands count for points. Off periods must be clearly marked and must be a minimum of 60 minutes in length.

(c) Multi-operator single transmitter. Mixed mode. Only one transmitted signal. Use of PacketCluster or other assistance during the contest places the entrant in the multi-operator category.

5) SECTIONS

(a) IOTA Island stations on an island with an IOTA reference number, for example AS-007, EU-005. This section includes the British Isles. Entrants intending to operate from a location whose IOTA status is not clear are advised to confirm validity by reference to the IOTA directory available from RSGB Headquarters. Please indicate on the entry whether the station is permanent

or a contest DXpedition, i.e. antennas and equipment installed specifically for the contest.

(b) World listed by continent. Any station in a location which does not have an IOTA reference.

(c) Short wave listeners See rule 10. The format of the listings will depend on the number of entries received.

6) EXCHANGE

Send RS(T) and serial number starting from 001, plus IOTA reference number if applicable. Do not use separate numbering systems for CW and SSB. Stations may be contacted on both CW and SSB on each band. Entrants in section (a) **MUST** send their IOTA reference as part of each contact.

7) SCORING

(a) QSO points. Each contact with an IOTA island counts 15 points. Other contacts count 5 points, except contacts with the entrant's own country or IOTA reference, which count 2 points.

(b) Multiplier. The multiplier is the total of different IOTA references contacted on each band on CW, plus the total of different IOTA references contacted on each band on SSB.

(c) Total score. The total score is the total of QSO points on all bands added together, multiplied by the total of multipliers.

8) LOGS

UK stations must use a summary sheet and RSGB style log sheets. Other entrants may use log sheets in local format, together with a summary and signed declaration that the rules and licence conditions have been complied with. Separate log sheets must be used for each band (but not each mode). Single mode entrants who make contacts on

other modes should submit these separately as check sheets.

Logs must show Time, Callsign, RST/Serial/IOTA reference sent, RST/serial number/IOTA reference received, multiplier claimed, and QSO points. Entrants are encouraged to submit cross-check (DUPE) sheets and a multiplier list. Logs on computer disc are welcomed, in accordance with RSGB format.

Entries must be postmarked by 27 August 1996 at the latest, and mailed to the following address:

RSGB IOTA Contest, c/o S. Knowles
G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Rd, Thornton
Heath, Surrey. CR7 7AF, England.

IOTA stations must state their location i.e., Island from where they operated, as well as their IOTA reference number. Check logs from non-entrants are welcome.

9) PENALTIES

Points may be deducted, or entrants disqualified, for violation of the rules or the spirit of the contest. This includes refusal by IOTA island stations to make contacts with their own country when requested. Use of a third party to make contacts on a list or net is also against the spirit of the contest and may lead to disqualification. Duplicate QSOs must be marked as such with no points claimed. Unmarked duplicates will be penalised at 10 times the claimed points, and excessive duplicates may cause disqualification.

10) SWL CONTEST

Scoring is as for the transmitting contest. Logs must be separate for each band, and show time, callsign of station heard, RS/T/serial number/IOTA reference number sent, callsign of station being worked, multiplier claimed, and QSO points. Under callsign of station being worked, there must

be at least two other QSOs before a callsign is repeated, or else 10 minutes must have elapsed. If both sides of a QSO can be heard, they can be logged separately for points if appropriate.

11) AWARDS

(a) The IOTA Trophy (non-returnable) will be presented by the IOTA committee to the entrant, whether single operator or multi-operator group in the IOTA Island stations Section (DXpedition subsection), with the overall highest checked score, regardless of mode. A trophy will also be awarded to the leading non-DXpedition IOTA entrant, and further Trophies as the contest grows.

(b) The CDXC Geoff Watts Memorial Trophy (non-returnable) will be presented to the entrant, whether single operator or multi-operator group in the IOTA Islands stations section (non DXpedition subsection) with the overall highest checked score regardless of mode.

(c) The DX News Sheet Trophy (retained for one year only) will be presented by the Editor of DX News Sheet to the British entrant operating from a location in the UK (including GD, GJ, and GU) with the highest checked score in the single operator SSB category. (Category A). The winner of the IOTA Trophy will not be eligible for this award.

(d) The David King G3PFS Trophy, in Memory of the Late Geoff Watts, (retained for one year only) will be presented to the British entrant operating from a location in the UK (including GD, GJ, and GU) with the highest checked score in the single operator SSB category, (Category B). The winner of the IOTA Trophy will not be eligible for this award.

(e) Certificates will be awarded to leading stations in each category and section, and in each continent, according to entry.

ROPOCO 2 CW (Rotating post codes) (Sponsor RSGB)

The General Rules: RSGB General Rules (HF) apply.

When: 0700 - 0900 UTC Sunday 4 August 1996.

Band & mode: 3520 - 3570kHz, CW only.

Exchange: RST only, PLUS (a) for the first QSO, the entrant's send own Post Code and (b) for each subsequent QSO, the Post Code received from the previous contact.

Scoring: TEN points per QSO, contacts with UK stations only.

Awards: Certificates to the leading three entrants. Trophies to the highest scoring-entrant with a perfect or the most accurate log. In ROPOCO 1 the Verulam Silver Jubilee Trophy and in ROPOCO 2 the G3XTJ Memorial Trophy. The G5MY Trophy to the entrant with the highest aggregate score from both ROPOCO 1 & 2 events. Easy!, have fun.

EUROPEAN DX WAE (CW) (Sponsor DARC)

When: On 17 - 18 August 1996 (2nd full weekend).

From: 00:00 - 24:00 UTC.

Bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28MHz only.

Entry Classes:

- (a) Single operator, all band.
- (b) Multioperator, single transmitter.
- (c) SWL section.

Stations must remain on a band for at least 15 minutes, except for a quick QSY to work new multipliers. DX cluster support is allowed for all operator classes. Single operators may only operate for 36 hours.

The 12 hours of off - time may be taken in one to three periods and must be at least one hour long and noted in the log.

Exchange: RST & serial number commencing 001. USA stations to indicate their state code.

Non EU stations: work EU only.

Points: ONE point per QSO and ONE point per QTC. QTC is a report of a QSO which was made earlier in the contest and is made by non-EU stations to EU stations only. The QTC will contain the time, call sign and QSO number of the station being reported, e.g. (1307/G0ORH/543). A QSO may only be reported once and not back to the originating station. A maximum of 10 QTCs to the same station is allowed; the same station may be worked several times to complete the quota. Only the original QSO, however has QSO point value. Keep a uniform record of QTCs sent. For example, QTC 3/7 would indicate that this is the third series of QTCs sent, and that 7 QSOs were reported.

Awards: List 40 QSOs or QTCs per sheet, and separate logs per band. A dupe sheet must be included for bands with more than 200 QSOs. Logs to be submitted by 15 September 1996 to: WAEDC Committee, PO Box 1126, D-74370 Serheim, Germany.

WAE CHECK LIST

C3, CT, CU, DL, EA, EA6, EI, F, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, HA, HB, HB0, HV, I, IS, IT, JW, JX, LA, LX, LZ, LY, OE, OH, OH0, OJ0, OK, ON, OY, OZ, PA, SM, SP, SV, SVm, SV5, SV9, T7, T9, TA1, TF, TK, UR, ES, YO, YU, ZA, ZB, Z3, S51A, 3A, 4U1, 4U, 9H.

My apologies if I have not included all countries.

That's it for this Issue. There should be some good scores in NFD this year and a good turn

out also. Some 91 odd stations on air /p a few more than in previous years !. See you in IOTA contest with either, G3W01/p or if we get it, one of the new contest callsigns M6N on EU-120 IOW. Finally, let's hope the sporadic E propagation is kind to us this year as it was last year, if so, it should be very interesting.

My thanks go to RSGB & RadCom, DXNS, and QST publications for the information. Lastly, if you have any input, or are running a contest station that may require extra operators then let me know of your requirements, I can do no more. I hope you all have successful contesting months ahead and look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks and 73 de Ken, G0ORH.

HF CONVENTION

Volunteers Wanted Please!

There are two specific tasks I am looking for volunteers for, but other jobs will no doubt come up if there are too many volunteers!

1 Assistance with DXCC Checking. I am looking for someone (or one for each day) to assist Bill K5FUV with DXCC checking. (G3RTE did it last year but it's his 25th Wedding Anniversary this year). This involves receiving, organising and returning the bundles of cards while Bill gets on with the checking. If two people volunteer as a team then the split in duties can be organised between themselves.

2 Erection and collection of direction signs. This would particularly suit someone with local knowledge of the area. Signs will be delivered to Beaumont and need putting out on Friday and collecting up again on Sunday afternoon.

Also "On the day" help will be gratefully received: tasks like checking AV equipment and introducing speakers that take a small amount of time.

I can be contacted by email or phone 01638 552080 by the hordes of volunteers!

73 Fred Handscombe, G4BWP

NFD96 CLAIMED SCORES

Compiled by Dave Sharred, G3NKC

OPEN SECTION

QSO/points per band

Call	160	80	40	20	15	10	Tot
G3LNS/P	195/1430	211/755	280/963	238/758	50/186	35/252	1010/4344
G3KHZ/P	201/1488	209/770	289/995	173/549	26/ 90	29/216	927/4108
G3WOI/P	173/1256	239/836	212/717	283/904	28/103	37/276	972/4092
G3TBK/P	175	240	230	200	40	20	940/????
G3SDC/P	153						925/????
G3NJA/P	162/1158	170/604	249/867	270/825	17/52	18/128	886/3634
G6YB/P	130/976	158/551	331/1099	173/557	13/42	24/188	830/3407
G4FUH/P	160/1212	168/595	176/606	128/394	0/0	0/0	632/2807
G3XZW/P							624/????
G3ZME/P	125/944	97/368	198/662	156/500	3/10	10/72	589/2556
G4BRA/P	222/1574	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	222/1574

RESTRICTED SECTION

QSO/points per band

Call	160	80	40	20	15	10	Tot
G3GRS/P	188/1408	229/825	235/844	242/737	32/107	36/264	952/4185
GM3POL/P	153/1140	163/623	265/929	412/1262	9/34	0/0	1002/3988
G4MBC/P							892/????
G4FNL/P	170/1276	200/718	247/850	200/619	20 /70	25/175	862/3705
G5LO/P	130/992	192/714	210/771	239/760	31/103	38/280	840/3620
GI0AAA/P	152/1122	178/650	264/899	274/847	9/28	0/0	877/3546
G3UES/P	139/1068	214/767	235/823	152/461	22/78	27/212	789/3409
G3ZVW/P	170/1242	154/587	217/755	165/534	11/42	21/164	741/3324
G0FBB/P							690/????
G0SOA/P	139/1056	156/599	158/564	150/481	38/126	36/260	676/3086
G0NAA/P	151/1120	169/637	194/693	140/452	4/12	3/24	661/2938
GM4TMS/P	71/560	81/285	182/621	274/811	0/0	1/8	609/2285

QRP SECTION

QSO/points per band

Call	160	80	40	20	15	10	Total
G3WGV/P	131/1000	117/450	139/518	87/274	3/12	13/100	490/2354

NFD96 TIDBITS

UK PacketCluster Network

G0NAA/P - OPs G4BYG, G3LZQ

No G3ZRS this year but he couldn't stay away.. came to give moral support. We ran the TS950SDX to a c/f 540ft at 38ft in the centre and drooped off at the ends to abt 15ft above gnd, having put a rope at each end to a peg.. Except for a brief thunderstorm 30-mins before the start, we enjoyed best wx for many years at our coastal site just abt 10m south of Hornsea and 15m Nth of Spurn Point. We won't win anything but enjoyed first CW for 7-mnths, been QRT since November..

G3UES/P - OPs G4TSH, G3KKQ

Hard work!, I (G4TSH) had the night shift. Would have hoped to have done better on 160 es 20m

G3GRS/P - OPs G4BUO, G4FAM, G4IFB

This year we had to fight for every QSO and there seemed to be a lack of DLs, and no OZ portables at all. 20m has never before been our highest QSO band and, despite a very low impedance on that band, it obviously worked as we were called by W6 PY JA ZS within a seven minute period during the last hour.

G3KHZ/P - OPs G3KHZ, G3PJT, G3SJJ.

Wx at G3KHZ/P was vvy windy on Friday but improved over the weekend with sun on Sunday. HF condx very poor with no Es except for one HB9. 20m hard going without a beam. An excellent weekend, good food, company & accomodation!

G3LNS/P - OPs - G3LNS, G3NKC, G3VHB.

We had change plans fin GW at last minute 'cos of winds - not good at 1700'!! Decided

also then to try open section, so had low TH7, es 40/80/160m dipoles. Tip fer future - DO NOT PUT 40m DIPOLE DIRECTLY UNDER BEAM - BOOM IS RESONANT ON 40m; IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TUNE DIPOLE!! Ran wid beam at right angles to wire when we wanted 40m. Also had RF probs wid one computer; when 'NKC touched the keyboard, it sent garbage on air!!! After whingeing last year, and 'cos VHB on team, we ran FT1000D this year, wid 2 computers networked for 2nd rx. Had auto band/ antenna changeing also. Can we book sporadic E fer next year please? Es good wx even at start!

G3WGV/P - Op G3WGV.

It was really interesting to run QRP and see what I could work. Also, I was single Op, unassisted throughout, including set-up and tear down. Makes a change from the grand open section efforts of a few years ago!

G4BRA/P - OPS G3YMC es ??

Had a great weekend (or should I say Saturday night, since the station had been dismantled by 12am Sunday) and judging by reports our half wave inverted vee at 60ft did the job. Managed QSOs with K8MFO (Ohio) KA1DWX and VE1ZZ - have heard huge signals from Jack before, but gosh he was loud! Came back first call straight through the pile up! Also tried to work W1AW but found he was doing morse proficiency transmissions...Think we will be doing an all band entry next year for a change!

G10AAA/P - OPs G3SXW, G3TXF, G3WVG.

We've learned that G10 is just too far for working the stations in the South/Midlands on 28MHz ground-wave!

(Tks G3NKC)

NFD 1996

John Linford, G3WGV

A single operator unassisted entry in the QRP section

For many years I have done NFD with the Reading and District ARC. In the late 1980s the club started taking the event seriously and I was privileged to be a part of the team that won NFD outright for four consecutive years. RADARC's interest in the event waned after that and this year I decided that the time had come to do something completely different. 1996 would be the year of the QRP entry!

Examining the form sheet, otherwise known as Contest Classified in RadCom, it became apparent that the QRP section has always been rather under-subscribed. In fact, there were only three entries in 1995. Now I can't say that I am particularly QRP minded (I run 200W to an FT1000 usually), but the challenge sounded interesting and the section clearly needed support so I thought I should give it a try.

The form sheet also revealed that one could **win** the QRP section with under 400 QSOs! Seriously! Hey, this is a 24 hour contest and you can win it with 400 QSOs? That's less than 17 QSOs per hour. If I can't make 20 QSOs per hour then I deserve to be drummed out of CDXC. Read on to see if this is in prospect (don't get your hopes too high!).

The planning

So it came to pass that I decided to put in a single op unassisted entry for 1996. There were only a few problems with this idea, summarised as: no site, no suitable equipment, no power source, no antenna mast and no time to organise anything. However, challenges are there to be met, so I duly registered a site (not yet confirmed with the land owner - oops!), then started to worry

It so happened that early on in the worry cycle I was speaking with Neville, G3NUG and found that the IOTA FT900 could be available. Well, that was certainly one problem solved so I then set to answering the question of what site to use. About 600 yards away from my home QTH is a farm with several acres of open space leading up to the high ground of the Finchampstead Ridge. This would be ideal, and when approached the farmer was perfectly happy that I should be there. (It took a fair bit of salesmanship to convince him that Amateur Radio was a "real" hobby and then there was the usual stuff about "how far can you get?", "is it CB?" and so on).

It looked like I was on a bit of a roll but then Dayton rather got in the way (see another article elsewhere in this edition). Back from the States, I then had a weekend away enjoying my other hobby, mountain climbing and biking in the Lake District. Suddenly NFD was only a few days away and still I had no power and no antenna!

As luck would have it, I had a business trip down to Portsmouth and was therefore able to call in at Nevada and get one of the 35' masts that they have been advertising for a while. This is a really nice bit of kit, weighing about 20lbs and telescoping down to just 6' long, it can be erected by one person with a little care.

I hired a generator from a local plant hire company and I was all set. The generator turned out to be 3kVA, which considering I was running QRP was a bit of overkill. The only reason I needed a generator at all was to power the laptop computer which seems to need mains or 28V DC. It was useful to charge the 12V battery for the rig as well.

On the day

What a joy to only have to travel a few hundred yards to the contest site! At 9am on the Saturday, I started loading the car with equipment and by 11am had double checked

that everything was on board (totally unnecessary - I could walk back home in 2 minutes!).

Of course, nothing had been forgotten, and by mid-day I had a doublet up at 35' and was well on the way to an operational station. Compared with the many years of open section operation, this was amazing: in the heyday of open section wins, we were working solidly on the antenna farm from early on the Friday evening!

This is how the station was built up:

- A doublet antenna with the centre point held at 35' by a single mast. The ends were pegged out to ground using long lengths of thin nylon rope in an attempt to keep the conductor ends as high as possible. The doublet could be "configured" as short or long (80' or 200' top section) by the simple expedient of twisting two wires together on each side. Open wire feeders, straight into the "shack".
- The FT900, set to 5W (yes, really), feeding into a 3kW(!) MFJ antenna tuner. The ATU was nearly twice as big as the rig - my excuse being that I didn't want any inefficiencies. It's also the only ATU I own. Does the FT900 go down to 5W? You bet, in fact it goes right down to 2W. I needed a separate power meter to measure such minuscule power.
- Audio from the FT900 via a Timewave 59+ DSP filter, recently acquired at Dayton. This had the very satisfactory result of turning the side-tone which sounded like a square wave back into a sine wave. The output then went to an audio splitter feeding speaker and phones simultaneously with the great benefit that I could operate without cans for some of the time, helping to alleviate painful lugole syndrome.

- The famous(?) G3WGV contest keyer, linked to rig and computer. Computer running G3WGV LOG (naturally) and taking band data from the FT900 to avoid having to remember to change bands on the computer.

In keeping with the QRP image, the whole ensemble was somehow contained on a small table, less than 3' square and this, in turn was housed in a 3 man ridge tent, which had the great benefit of being easy to keep warm during the night.

Off we go!

It's 15:00 and suddenly 28MHz, which has been quiet for weeks, if not years, erupts into life. Well, there were half a dozen watery sounding signals anyway. Not a chance of attracting custom by calling CQ, and even less prospect of keeping a frequency with only 5 watts, so it's search and pounce time. Ahha, there's a nice strong signal...

G3ASR/P de G3WGV/P

What?! He's gone back to someone else! First QRP lesson: you don't often get through first time. After an age of listening to others beating me in the pile-up - in reality under two minutes, it's 599 001 and the first QSO in the log. Crazy report, he's barely moving the S meter and he'll be running 20 times the power I am (maybe more).

After a while the search and pounce technique settled down (it's not something that I had to contend with in the open section days). Unfortunately, so did 10m after just 10 QSOs, so it was off to 15m. No-one likes 15m during NFD. It has all the disadvantages of 10m in these sunspot challenged years, but misses the great benefit of a 2 times multiplier which our wonderful HFCC has endowed upon 160m and 10m.

Sure enough, not a single solitary signal on 15m. In fact, in the entire weekend I only

ever heard three stations on the band. Oh well, keep going LF and all will be well. 20m at least had some activity, but most of the stations couldn't hear my paltry 5W. Second QRP lesson: there will always be stations you can hear that are **never** going to hear you however often you call.

Oh the temptation to tweak that innocuous little knob marked "Power" just a little bit clockwise! But no! This is a QRP entry, remember? After a while, QRP lesson number three becomes clear: it is amazing what you **can** work with just 5W. Suddenly the QRP bug bites just a little (don't worry kind reader, I've got over it now). No way will I turn that power knob up. Let's see what's actually possible with 5W.

It's a couple of hours into the contest and 20m is getting hard work. Yeah, let's try 40m. Wow! It's buzzing. QSO rate actually leaps up to 60 an hour and suddenly it's like the good old days again. It doesn't last. More people with cloth ears: I can hear them, what's the matter with 'em?

Let's get daring. A CQ call! No-one replies. Lesson four in the QRP training manual: CQs don't work, well not very often anyway. More search and pounce. More QSOs. I'm averaging 26 QSOs per hour, so at this rate my continued CDXC membership is assured.

Suddenly it's 20Z and it's time for the best bit of NFD, the 160m session. I had theorised that 160m would be my most competitive band and with the multiplier it seemed that I should work the band dry, even at the expense of QSO rate. So I ended up operating 160m for no less than five hours netting 131 QSOs and over one third of the entire contest score.

CQs did work, sometimes, on 160m and were a valuable way of picking up other nomads such as G3GRS/P who make search and pounce such an art form that you can never

find them calling CQ.

As dawn approached, the vampire band started to fade and it was time for my first foray onto 80m. This band is pretty handy as there are signals on it throughout the 24 hour period. However, the aim was to capture the EU portables before the sun got up and got the D-layer all excited. It worked, with a final tally of 117 QSOs.

At 0500Z everything went quiet. 160 and 80 had closed and 40 upwards were full of very weak and watery signals originating from 100W+ stations. Thin pickings for QRP folks, so a couple of hours kip was in order.

By 0700Z things had perked up a bit, but the QSO rates of the night time session would never be repeated. As the day wore on, the QSO rate gradually dropped and the amount of band hopping increased, searching for anyone who could hear my weak-G signals.

As the end of the contest approached, rates dropped to under 12/hour. Hardly worth staying awake for, you might think. Certainly my body kept telling me so. But I stuck with it and at the end of the contest, the vital statistics were:

Total QSOs	490
Total points	2354
QSOs/hour	20.42

So I had beaten my target of 400 QSOs and could return the rig to our revered CDXC Chairman without also handing him my letter of resignation! Said Chairman came down to recover the rig on the same evening and we went out for a decent meal (I think I fell asleep).

What did I learn?

1. It is possible to put in a credible single operator unassisted entry for NFD.
2. It is really easy to set up a QRP station. Really it's amazing that there is such poor support for the section. It's a shame to think that the section may be withdrawn because

of the lack of support.

3. Yes, folks, you really can make QSOs with just 5W. 490 of them in 24 hours if you try hard enough.
4. QRP is vaguely addictive after a while. You shouldn't suffer any irreversible ill effects in just 24 hours though.

What would I do differently next time

1. Try to avoid having to use a generator. They are expensive to hire, noisy and damned heavy to lift on your own.
2. Improve the guying and hoisting arrangements for the mast. It did go up, stay up and come down without incident, but there were some tense moments on the way up and it's as well it wasn't windy.
3. Get on 160m a little earlier.
4. Sort out some sprogy noises from the keyer and computer that challenged a few of the weaker signals on 28MHz.

And in conclusion

All in all, a great weekend and we all wait with baited breath for the results. Does it strike you as odd that years ago the results used to be published in the August RadCom. These days, with the advent of Pentiums (Pentia?), DTP and all that good stuff, they don't appear until November. I always knew there was something fundamentally wrong with the computer revolution.

If you've done the open or restricted sections before, you should try QRP. It's a different contest altogether with its own charm and interest. Don't give the HFCC the excuse to withdraw the QRP section - put in an entry next year.

Thanks to all members for the QSOs. See you next year.

73, John, G3WGV/AA3AF

SPECIAL UK CONTEST CALLS

Chris Burbanks, G3SJJ

At the RSGB HF Contests Committee meeting held on 12 June 1996, the allocation of the new Special Contest Calls was held. Where a call had only one 1st choice applicant, it was automatically allocated. In the event of several clubs applying for the same call as their first choice, a draw was held. The process was repeated until all clubs had a callsign. The process was scrupulously fair and in the event several top groups did not receive their first choice, such is the luck of a draw!! It is hoped that users of the two most popular calls G6A and M6A will submit competitive entries!

Twenty five applications have been received to date, so there are still another 27 callsigns available. I have faxed a list to RSGB HQ and they will forward the applications to the RA for issuing of the NOV. I have stressed that some groups will want use the new callsigns in the IARU Radiosport event in July and not forgetting the IOTA Contest!

The list so far is:

G6A G3CSA	M6A G3SDC
G6B G2DPQ	M6B G0KPW
GM6C GM4TMS	G6D G0OAU
M6E G0VVX	GM6F GM3ZRC
GW6J GW0VYG	G6L G3CZU
M6L G4CRC	G6M M0ADI
M6M G0AAA	M6N G3WOI
M6Q G3GRS	M6R G4RMS
G6T M0ADJ	M6T G4MRS
GM6V GM4DMZ	G6W G0WPX
M6W G3CSR	GM6X GM6MD
M6X G3WASG	M6Z GM0XCW
M6Z G4MBC	

NB My own group were beaten by Walt G3NYY's group for G6T! HFCC members G4ODV and G4BUO submitted requests only after the draw was held therefore gained their 1st choice, G3OZF's group went to their 4th choice. So no one can say the result was biased in favour of HFCC members!!!

Chris Burbanks G3SJJ Chairman HFCC

TEN TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL CONTEST OPERATING

Steve Cole GW4BLE

There are no "secrets" of successful contest operating. In my opinion, the only way to improve is by being consistently active, both in and out of contests. What follows are ten "tips" or "tricks" (call them what you will), that may help you in the next contest. The emphasis here of course is SSB operating but some points are equally valid for the CW op.

- If you aren't already using a computer for real-time contesting then do it now. The benefits are enormous. If you aren't proficient with keyboard skills then practice with normal QSOs or run a mini pile-up of your own with a string of JAs or Ws.
- Be careful when using "QRZ" on phone. This should ideally be the last word in your call, i.e. "G0ZZZ QRZ..." and not "QRZ G0ZZZ". Stations tend to call straight after they hear "QRZ". Use the second option and there may be a 'double'.
- Keep a small timer on your desk for use during off-times. I bought a digital kitchen timer, the sort of thing used for timing cooking of a meal, it will ring after any combination of minutes or hours. Much more convenient than fiddling with a watch or alarm clock.
- Use a good-quality, comfortable head-set at all times. Be sure your VOX settings are correct and for serious contesting only use a radio with a built-in monitor.
- Voice keys are useful, but don't just sit there pressing a button all day. There can be a fractional delay between you pressing the keyboard key and activation of the DVP, experience has shown that a live operator is far superior when running a pile-up.
- Never, ever, drink alcohol during a contest. Keep that for the following day when you take your spouse out for a meal. During the contest I have a soft drink, usually something high in vitamin C and drunk with a straw from a disposable carton.
- Don't go chasing unnecessary DX if you are serious with your entry. For example, you have worked a DU1 on 10 metres (nice double mult in CQWW) and you come across a DX3 running a pile-up; don't waste time calling him if you think there will be any delay. If it's going to be a quick "5914/5927" and you grab 3 points then fine, but don't get hyped up with the different prefix (unless you are in WPX of course!).
- Anyone living in an urban area who hasn't had an RFI complaint just isn't active enough. I have a selection of filters to hand and my XYL is briefed on what to say should anyone call. There is also a letter to explain what I am doing (representing my country in an international radio competition etc... with an invitation for the complainant to call around after the event for a demonstration of the station etc.)
- Speak fast but c-l-e-a-r-l-y during the contest. Don't give any unnecessary information in the exchange. Be polite but firm. Please give your callsign after

each exchange, and try not to respond to the "two letters" brigade.

- Make use of Alt N (you are using a computer aren't you?) to keep track of improvements for next year. Write them down on a pad if you must, things like adjusting the rig height, proximity of light switches, and how about that temporary receive wire for LF? Note items down immediately after the contest and act on them before next time!

73, Steve GW4BLE > GB7DXC (or Email GW4BLE@aol.com)

G5RP TROPHY

Nominations Requested

The G5RP Trophy is awarded annually as an encouragement to newcomers to HF DXing. This trophy is awarded to someone making rapid progress in DXing in the recent past, which only newcomers have the scope to do. However, the award is not limited to youngsters or the newly licensed - the DX bug can bite at any age, and after many years of being licensed.

Experienced HF DXers are able to reward and encourage newcomers by nominating an up-and-coming DXer for this award. Your nominations for the 1995-96 award are needed **now**!

This trophy is jointly awarded by the Vale of the White Horse Society and the RSGB HF Committee, and will be presented at the RSGB International HF and IOTA Convention on 5th October 1996.

Nominations should be sent to RSGB HF Committee, c/o F. C. Handscombe, G4BWP, Sandholm, Bridge End Road, Red Lodge, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 8LQ, to arrive no later than 30th August.

70 NOW QRV

UK PacketCluster Network

Geraldo, IK8JAF is in San'a, Yemen for business and has been given a licence. He started transmitting as 70IJAF yesterday (16 June) and will go on approximately for one month. He is likely to return to Yemen in October.

Geraldo is active (with dipoles and 100 Watts) on Thursdays and Fridays (from 16 UTC between 14.200 and 14.220 MHz and from 20 UTC on 7.075 MHz) and whenever his business commitments leave some spare time to him. He is active on SSB only, presently he cannot work split and he does not like wild pile-ups.

QSL via home call: P.O. Box 230, 84091 Battipaglia - SA, Italy

(Tnx G4LYO)

ZL8RI QSO STATISTICS

UK PacketCluster Network

Here are the QSO totals from the recent ZL8RI DXpedition to Kermadec:

QSO Total before duplicates - 33897
QSO Total after duplicates - 31750

Area	SSB	CW	RTTY
North America	10106	6784	558
South America	179	59	2
Europe	1769	1772	77
Asia	5548	5094	773
Africa	40	18	1
Oceania	836	259	16

I make that Europe 11.4% of the total. Conditions were not really ideal for QSOs between ZL8 and Europe I guess. I was one of the lucky ones from Europe but it was hard going.

73 de Steve, G3VMW

OPERATING IN THE CQ WPX CONTEST ON QRP

Steve Muster, G4UOL

I thought I would share my experiences of operating in the CW version of this contest. The two contests a year which I 'seriously' enter are CQWW in November from GD and the WPX contest from home in Southend on sea, Essex. I have only tried an all band QRP entry in the WPX contest once before. This was in 1995. Last years result was fair for a first attempt, with a score of 277,000 pts with 601 QSOs on 5 watts. I use the TS930s with the drive at QRP and an indoor G5RV. Most people say to me either 'how can you fit a G5RV in the loft' or 'it will never work as good as an outdoor antenna'. Well the second comment may well be true.

The elements of the antenna run in two directions to fit in the (large) loft and performs well on 40metres and above. The performance on 80 metres is okay, but I would say is about 20% down on the higher bands. It loads on 160, but is well down on performance.

So, enough of the antenna talk - and down to the operating. In the CQ contests I always find the first few hours is mayhem, with everyone shouting 'contest', but a poor QSO rate. So, the QRP activity starts around 0500 UTC. This year was pretty difficult as my main computer was not available for the contest. I had to use my brothers old notebook which, to say is RF noisy is an understatement. However, it was a choice of put up with it, or get the paper check sheets.

Conditions on Saturday seemed better on the higher bands than on Sunday. I found that I worked 80% of the QSOs in the first 12 to 15 hours of the contest. The, computer then came into it's own. There was plenty of stations on 10 and 15 to work which was a nice surprise. The DX pile ups were easy to crack and after an average of two calls I worked everyone I heard with 2 exceptions

(see below).

I have found there is no point whatsoever in calling CQ when on QRP. Maybe at the next sunspot maximum this will not be the case, but it certainly is now. Most of the time whilst operating you forget that your only running QRP. I have the attitude that it's 95% operating and the rest on power and antennas. (Maybe that's why I never win ?!). Winning is unimportant for me. The aim is to try my best and beat my own score from the previous year. So far, so good. I always match the speed of the operator and try moving the VFO 50 to 100 Hz on second calls - works nearly every time. Also, the golden rule for me, is always keep the over short. One problem I did find noticeable this year is the number of yanks who immediately called me GD4UOL. I had to say sorry I'm only G4UOL !.

Two observations from the weekend come to mind. The first, do you find that in the last say 6 hours of the contest, when your tired and looking for that multiplier in the crowd, that as you tune the band every station seems to send 'contest', timed, so that you never actually get their call without waiting around or sending '?!'.

Also, that I have called some USA stations that are very weak and in the noise and they usually respond first or second time. How come that some European ops are 30db over and never come back ?.

I found 20 metres the best band, but made an effort to keep to 40 as much as possible for the double points.

So, how did I do ? Well, I had 624 QSOs with 278 prefixes and have claimed 302,464 points. That's around 23 QSOs up on last year, 17 mults down and 25,000 points up !. I'm sure looking forward to the sunspots returning and hope next year to beat my new target.

I worked 62 countries including 3V8 on

15/20 & 40 metres, I,U, YV and KP2 on 40 metres, EX,HH,JA,K1,2 & 4,SV and TU on 20 metres Not bad for a weekend !

The result was :

BAND	QSO	QSO PTS	PTS/Q	PFEXES
160	1	2	2 0	0
80	115	232	2 0	39
40	209	506	2 4	107
20	210	253	1 2	116
15	67	70	1 0	13
10	22	25	1 1	3
Totals	624	1088	1 7278	= 302,464

The country totals were:

160m 1, 80m 33, 40m 45, 20m 45, 15m 20 and 10m 13. There were only two stations whom I had to give up on. One was UUIJ on 40m who called a lot, but never heard me, and ISOOMH who unfortunately was out of skip. The computer noise was bad on 15 and 10m, however it's all good experience and improves the operating.

Oh, finally, to any WPX prefix chasers the best ones were:

MJ (my first), 9A240, HAM5, KM900, OEM2 & 6. #

I hope you found this short article of interest. I now have the 6 month wait for CQWW from GD land.

steve@g4uol.demon.co.uk

PAST CDXC CHAIRMAN IN THE STOCKS!

Tony Canning G0OPB

Yes its true! Bank Holiday Monday 5th May found ex CDXC Chairman John Linford alias G3WGV in the stocks*, shackled by the hands and neck, inviting passers by to throw cold wet sponges at him!

This was an offer I couldn't refuse, so without delay I paid my 50 Pence fee to get my own back for all the pile-ups where John

made it and I didn't. (The best 50 Pence I've spent for a long time!).

Later in the day David G0HXN also arrived on the scene and also could not resist the offer!

It was however all in a good cause at the local Fete here in Reading to raise funds for the Cyclops Venture Scouts Unit.

**Stock:- A device that was used throughout England long ago (around 1600) as a method of punishment, usually administered by the local Mayor or Sheriff. The individual was held by the hands and neck or ankles and the duration of stay was proportional to the severity of the crime, from hours to days.*

A notice was also posted stating the crime the victim was found guilty of and passers by were invited to throw whatever they felt like at the poor unfortunate held.

ZC4 PROBLEMS

Roger Western G3SXW

News from Cyprus this week (17 June) is distressing. Currently non-residents of the British Sovereign Base Areas will not be permitted to operate amateur radio. Resident licensees may continue to operate but it seems that visitors will not be welcomed.

Naturally, the circumstances are somewhat unclear but it would appear that sponsorship from one of the two SBA radio clubs will be required and they are not currently willing to co-operate with non-residents.

The "behaviour of previous expeditions" is quoted but it may also be a matter of not feeling able to take responsibility for security when sponsoring visitors.

This is the situation as relayed to me in good faith.

CDXC SWL NEWS

By Bob Treacher BRS32525

The listener movement continues to flourish thanks to the sterling work done by listener representatives and organisations in many countries, but the number of SWLs who are CDXC members is still disappointingly low. With the SWL membership criteria relaxed to accept any SWL with 100 countries heard at present, SWL membership to the UK's premier DX organisation should be much higher. Let us see what the next few months bring in terms of new SWL members.

The last couple of months have seen HF activity at BRS32525 decrease, but the odd sortie to 3.5MHz around 2230z has accounted for a few interesting loggings, perhaps the best being 5V7HR. 1.8MHz had been devoid of SSB DX whenever the receiver found itself on the band, but being in the right place at the right time might hopefully account for something new from Africa in the next couple of months. Correspondence for my other two magazine columns had indicated that 14 and 18MHz had been open to the Caribbean and South America quite late in the day, and 24 and 28MHz had been producing European DX via Sporadic-E. Additionally, 28MHz had provided some VE and W loggings late in the evenings, at the same time that double-hop Es had meant VE and W stations being heard on 50MHz.

SWL CHALLENGES

The hastily arranged Challenge which took place at the same time as the SSB leg of CQWPX had been a surprisingly worthwhile success. 35 logs were received, including logs from S5 and OM. The results booklet is being prepared at the time of penning these few notes and should be available at the end of June/early July. The major SWL Challenge which takes place during the CQWW contests is fast approaching. Rules have been sent to a number of SWLs, together with various organisations and

national magazines. The INTERNET should also carry them and they will also be on the INTERNET BBS courtesy of OE3OLB. If any reader has other ideas for good publicity, please let me know either by mail or via the INTERNET at 101526.1041@compuserve.com.

NET FREQUENCY LIST

Peter Rayer, ex MP4BIM, BRS96106 and G-13038 has produced a "Net List" listed in time-day order. It is a worthwhile list and has taken much time and effort to produce. The intention is to continue to add to the list and issue it at regular intervals. So, any reader who is a "netaholic" will find the list invaluable. The list is available from P G Rayer, 6 Firbank Road, Bournemouth, BH9 1EL. Including postage, the list will only cost you £3.

FUN CALLSIGN QUIZ

Mick Toms, BRS31976, our newest member, sent me two DX callsign quizzes. I've reproduced the first one this issue and will give you the second in the next issue. This one centres around callsigns from 1952. Simply tell me which country each callsign represented. Simple? Well, see how you fare! The callsigns are - AG2AB, C5AR, FKS9AA, M3AB, OQ5BT, PX1YR, VQ2IF, VQ4DC, VS1AD, VS2CV, ZB1BC and 9S4AC. There's no prize. Answers next time.

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC:

G4PUQ	Peter McEwen	Easton, Suffolk
ZC4HA/G4PZE	Andy Henry	Larnaca

The Committee hopes that all of you will enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXN, Secretary.

THE NEW SHORT-WAVE PROPAGATION HANDBOOK REVIEWED.

Jim Smith, G0OFE

Published by CQ Communications.

Some of you may remember the Short-wave Propagation Handbook. The authors, W3ASK, N4XX and K6GKU have revamped and updated it and this book is the result, published late last year. It can be obtained from the RSGB, priced at £13.66 non-members, and £11.60 to members.

The book consists of seven chapters. The first, "Principles of Ionospheric Propagation", covers the general background to ionospheric propagation, and includes a section on the solar events of 1989.

The next two chapters are devoted to solar cycles. Chapter 2, "Sunspots and the Sunspot Cycle" Covers the basics of sunspots and their discovery, and mentions that prior to Galileo, who offered the first serious explanation of sunspots, they were thought to be caused by high-flying animals transiting the sun! It goes on to describe in detail Cycles 19 to 22 (the current one) and concludes with smoothed annual sunspot numbers month-by-month since 1749.

Chapter 3 covers Sunspot Cycle Predictions. It describes the various methods used for predicting solar cycles, and discusses the relative success and failure of the various methods. It ends with a discussion of the prospects for cycle 23, together with some early predictions for cycle 23. These range from very low (Sunspot number of 75 or so) to monstrous (well over 200!) so take your pick!

Chapter 4 is for those without a computer! "Do-it-Yourself Propagation Predictions and Master Propagation Charts" provide charts to work out propagation paths at various

stages of the solar cycle. Unfortunately it is rather generalised and only covers propagation to and from the USA. Understandable, I guess, as the book was written in the USA.

Chapter 5, "Ionospheric Forecasts" goes into the basics of which factors determine the make-up of ionospheric forecasting. It also goes on to list various sources of ionospheric and solar data, and forecasts, such as WWV.

Chapter 6, "HF Propagation Prediction Programs", explains the ins and outs of computerised propagation predictions. It describes the history of prediction software, and goes on to review currently available software in detail, such as Miniprop Plus, Ioncap, and CAPMAN.

The final chapter covers "Unusual HF and VHF Ionospheric Propagation", including Sporadic E, Auroral, Meteor-scatter and Trans-Equatorial propagation (TEP) at VHF. It also covers spread-F, greyline and long-path.

Overall, the book is well written, with references at the end of each chapter, and is both a good read and a useful reference book.

1996 SEANET CONVENTION

The 1996 SEANET Convention will be held November 22, 23 and 24th in Madras, India. All are welcome to attend. For further information send a request to: VU2GJR, Gaja, PO Box 1127, Madras, India 600010 or E-mail to: seanet96@indiagate.com.

9M6, EAST MALAYSIA (OC-133)

CDXC member Tony, G0OPB, will be active July 25-28th, including participation in the IOTA Contest (OC-133), and possibly August 2-4th August as 9M6/G0OPB (to be confirmed). Outside these periods he will be active from the 9M6 mainland. QSL to home call.

SOLAR SUMMARY APR/MAY

Jim Smith, G0OFE

Average solar activity in April/May was slightly lower than the first three months of the year, and was the lowest yet since the last solar maximum in 1989. There is no question that we're bumping along the bottom of the cycle now. Average solar flux in April and May was 69.1 and 69.7 units respectively, the first time the monthly average flux has dropped below 70. The highest daily value was 77 on 10th May, and the lowest was 66 units on 21/22/28/29 May. The rolling 27-day average of solar flux began the period at 71 units, fell to 69 units at the beginning of May before rising again to 71 by the end. The 90-day average solar flux also dipped just below the 70 mark by the end of the period.

The average annual solar flux at the end of May, and centred on the end of November 1995, was 73 units. This is below the minimum of Cycle 20 (June 76) but above that of Cycle 18 (May 1954) when the level of 73 units was reached 9 months before the minimum. Based on that, this minimum may prove to be as late as August this year, we'll have to wait and see!

Geomagnetic activity has settled down after being slightly more disturbed in march and April - the 27-day rolling average fell from 10 units at the beginning of the period, down to 7 units by the end. It's worth pointing out that the annual mean a-index in 1986 (the last minimum) was 14 units, but this time, at the end of May, the average is only 8.5, anyone like to comment on the differences in conditions between the last minimum and this one?

73 de Jim G0OFE

A5, BHUTAN

It was reported that the Inside DX reports Barry, ZS1FJ, has applied for permission to be active in January/February 1997. (*Ed. I hope so!*)

DAYTON 1996

John Linford, G3WGV

A random account of an Amateur Radio pilgrimage

Anyone who has been to Dayton will regale you with tales of the size of it, the time it takes to walk round the flea market, the hospitality suites and dinners, and perhaps most of all the way you meet just about everyone who is anyone in Amateur Radio. Dayton is, quite simply, a MUST for any active Amateur.

In the late '80s and early '90s, I used to make the pilgrimage on an annual basis. At the time I was travelling to the States on a fairly regular basis with my work and generally I could tack Dayton onto the start or end of a trip. 1991 was the last time I went, partly because at that time I stopped travelling to the USA on business, but mostly because I felt that there wasn't really anything new any more.

Five years passed and the rumblings started deep down that maybe there should be another pilgrimage. It turned out that Don, G3XTT was also thinking of going, so we decided to team up. A little later I learned that another Don, G0RPW, whom we both know from the Reading and District ARC was going to be in the Carolinas at about Dayton time, so now we were three. It was to be RPW's first pilgrimage, so Don XTT and I were interested to see what his reaction would be!

Getting to Dayton

Actually, you can get to Dayton pretty easily. Dayton international airport (which doesn't actually seem to have a single international flight) is only about 5 miles from town and the convention. So you fly the Atlantic to somewhere like Chicago and catch a short internal flight on to Dayton.

Of course, we had to do things differently.

I flew out to Washington DC a week before Dayton, so that I could attend the FOC dinner at DC. Don XTT came out a few days later and together we drove down to North Carolina, passing through the gorgeous Shenandoah National Park and along the Blue Ridge mountains for literally hundreds of miles.

At Charlotte, we collected the other Don, GORPW and started the long drive to Dayton, some 600 miles away. Of course, driving in the USA is so easy that the miles soon slipped by and we got to Dayton in good time to have a first stab at the hospitality suites.

We had been fortunate to get accommodation at the Crown Plaza in downtown Dayton. Old hands will be confused by this name, but it turns out to be Stouffer's, in disguise! The hotel has changed ownership recently, but everyone there still referred to it as Stouffer's - I wonder how many years it will take before that name is forgotten?

For those of you who've never been to Dayton

It's hard to describe the sheer scale of the Dayton experience. The Hamvention is far and away the biggest thing that happens in Dayton. Not that Dayton is a small place, by any means. It has several very large hotels and has its own claim to fame as the birthplace of aviation. It also boasts the huge Hara Arena, about 5 miles north of town which is home to the Hamvention.

The Hamvention takes over the entire arena. There's the arena itself, and linked to it are half a dozen large covered areas, including a massive ballroom. As if that's not enough, there is a huge outdoor "flea market" covering several acres, some of which is under cover as well.

Naturally, all the usual Amateur Radio suppliers are there in force. Kenwood, Yaesu and Icom have a sort of informal competition as to who can have the biggest stand with the plushiest carpet and the best give-aways. Yaesu seems to do baseball caps and there were three people doing nothing but hand out caps to the masses. They must have got rid of thousands of them!

Probably more interesting, however, is the huge array of smaller dealers who we never really hear about here in the UK. Often these traders have special deals on goodies that make our prices in the UK look plain silly. For example, I bought a Timewave 59+ DSP for \$250, or about £166. They cost almost £300 here.

There is an adage that if you can't get it at Dayton, then it probably doesn't exist. Certainly that's got to be true for any current equipment, and a stroll around the flea markets will soon prove the truth of the statement for much of the older stuff that us G3s cut our teeth on.

Dayton runs for two and a half days and to do it justice you really do need to be there for at least two days. Alongside the trade stands is a very comprehensive lecture programme. There are usually three or four streams going throughout and they cover just about every facet of Amateur Radio operating and technology, albeit with something of a Stateside bias.

Every bit as important as the convention is the social life which centres around Stouffer's (sorry, the Crown Plaza) hotel. Various groups hire suites and stage hospitality suites to which everyone is welcome. They are on just about every floor of the 13 storey hotel and some are so popular that people are found spilling out into the corridors.

Everywhere you go, Amateur Radio is being spoken. I suppose there must be the odd one or two people staying at the hotel who are

nothing the do with radio: I wonder what they make of it all?

Another key activity is the various dinners, most of which are again at the Crown Plaza. There is a DX dinner, a contest dinner, low band DXing dinner and probably several others as well. All these are extremely popular and have to be booked well in advance. Some of them are by invitation only, but most are open to all.

Getting accommodation can be a problem. The downtown hotels are fully booked up many months before the event. A lot of people re-book for next year as soon as they arrive! Leave it too late and you'll end up with a 30 mile drive from Springfield or even farther afield. Of course, there are cancellations so you may be lucky and get into a local hotel literally days before the event. This is what we managed to do, but it's a risky strategy if you have no alternative.

Accommodation is also staggeringly expensive. The room rates pretty well double during Dayton week, and a downtown hotel room will set you back around £140 per night. Time was when you could fill that room up with as many people as you liked. Unfortunately Dayton's fire regulations seem to have stopped all that, though we did manage to get three people into our two bed room without too much difficulty.

Anyway, it's impossible to do justice to Dayton in words... if you've never been there, you quite simply have to go!

An update for those who've been before

Well quite a lot of Dayton is the same as ever...

The flea market was as big and diverse as ever. Moving the event into May improved the WX considerably, so people were complaining of sunburn rather than the rain

and cold.

A major theme this year seemed to be Drake equipment. It was staggering to see literally dozens of these marvellous old masters going for, typically, a few hundred dollars apiece. There also were Swan transceivers (who remembers Swan then? Maybe only the G3s amongst us), Hammarlund and some very worthy old Collins equipment, all going for a song.

Of course there was much more to see than old transceivers. One stall was selling a rhythm Morse tutor. All the letters were set to a rather tiresome tune, heavy on beat and not much else. The lengths some people will go to to learn code!

Mr. Nicad was there in force with three stalls. I took advantage of the low cost of nicads in the USA and bought up a supply for all my portable kit. Another stall was selling nothing but ropes and antenna rigging stuff. It was seriously tempting to get supplies in, but these things are heavy and excess baggage costs would certainly outweigh (pun, sorry) the advantage of the ridiculously low prices.

Another stall was selling rubber band pistols and sharp shooters! What does this have to do with Amateur Radio? Discouraging birds from alighting on your beam perhaps? I don't know, but they were doing brisk trade, mainly with the youngsters. And, of course there was the usual plethora of junk stalls selling everything you could possibly want, and an awful lot you certainly would never want.

Software of just about every conceivable type was everywhere. The CD-ROM is big business now, and you could be excused for thinking that you are a second class computing citizen if your PC doesn't have a CD drive.

Not surprisingly, there were many stalls selling PCs. Interestingly, for once, the price

advantage was not so marked. Yes, PC hardware is cheaper in the USA, but not by enough to make it worthwhile going through the import process and, in effect, waiving your warranty rights.

HF transceivers were a lot cheaper and one could probably still do a good deal, even after paying shipping and import duty. I've always been intrigued by the fact that transceivers are so much cheaper than here in the UK, whilst the accessories and upgrades, filters and all that, are noticeably more expensive. Different marketing strategies, I suppose, but one that we can turn to our advantage.

On a lighter note, the lunatic fringe were in good supply as usual. People with silly antennas attached to various parts of their anatomy were everywhere. The usual trick was to have a 2m rubber duck clipped to the inevitable baseball cap, but one trend setter had a miniature tower attached to a backpack and protruding a full metre above his head. This guy was hard to miss in a crowd, and he kept on bumping into low flying objects with the result that by the end of the event his tower was decidedly the worse for wear!

One very positive thing that struck me, as it has in the past, is the large number of youngsters sculling around the convention. And not just novice licensees either: there were lots of teenagers with Extra Class licenses, a tribute to the incentive licensing system if ever there was one. The sooner we have a similar system here in Britain the better, in my book.

Of course Dayton isn't just about stalls and reminiscing over old radios. It's about meeting people and enjoying the social life that is so much an integral part of the Dayton scene.

The hospitality suites seemed a little quieter this time. Having said that, some of them were very busy, KA9FOX's being a good

example. At one stage things got just a little noisome, with lots of people spilling out into the corridor, resulting in, would you believe, a complaint from the hotel management. This was dismissed with the comment "looks like we're going to have to get the new management properly trained"!

As usual, vast numbers of people could be found in both bars. The 1st floor bar was certainly the busiest and noisiest and to make matters worse dealers were trying to give presentations or erudite subjects such as the internals of the latest DSP transceivers. Not a good move and a bit daft given the number of lecture rooms available at the Hara. The top floor bar was, as usual somewhat more quiet and civilised. We oscillated back and forth between the two bars, stopping off at the various hospitality floors on the way.

There was a surprisingly large contingent of Gs this year. No doubt the numbers were swelled by the RSGB, Practical Wireless and the G-QRP club all having booths at the convention, but there were many others who were just visiting. It seems slightly strange to me that so many people are willing to travel to Dayton, but we seem unable to encourage them to come to our own HF convention which is just down the road!

Was it worth it?

You bet! I think Dayton can get a bit much if you attend year after year, but after a break of a few years, it was terrific fun. Don, G0RPW was said to be "gobsmacked"! I'm not sure if it blew his mind so much that he'll never risk it again... time will tell.

As for me, I think that I might try the pilgrimage every other year in future, possibly going to Visalia on the alternate years. Anyway, I've spent all my dosh for this and probably the next few years. Going to Dayton can be seriously damaging to your bank account!

73, John, G3WGV/AA3AF

WAKE ISLAND-AL7EL/KH9 FEBRUARY 1996

DON GREENBAUM, WB2DND

with contributions by K4HQI, AL7EL, and N6EK

Wake, a tiny island formed several million years ago by a volcano is big in history. Unlike most ham island destinations, this one is known to many people outside our hobby. Located 19° 17' N, 166° 39' E., it is the first American possession in time zone #1, approximately 2300 miles west of Hawaii.

In May, 1995 Tom, AL7EL, went to Wake on business. Hoping to find time to operate, he took along a long wire and an IC736. Tom was not expecting big pileups, but he was very surprised. In his limited operating time he worked over 2,100 stations and found that there was a great demand for KH9, especially from Europe and the East Coast US. Prior to his departure he left a request to return with a few associates to operate for a week at some future date.

In the fall of 1995 he received approval to return and called me to see if I were interested in joining him. My response was an emphatic yes and we started assembling our "team". Wake is the first American possession on the other side of the international date line so we called our group the Dateline DX Association. I met Tom 10 years ago when I wrote a logging program for several African DXers. Tom was the QSL manager for some of them and we worked closely on the programming. We often talked of going to an island somewhere and this seemed to be perfect in terms of accessibility and the time we had available to travel. Tom had met Lloyd, K4HQI, at Dayton 6 years ago and knew Lloyd to be a fine low band operator. I knew Bob, N6EK, through my association with the Heard Island team where I was providing computer assistance. Bob has been on many DXpeditions and is an avid contester. Putting together the team was one of the easiest parts of the operation.



The operating site on Wake Island

All four members agreed from the beginning that the goal of the operation was not to work as many people as possible, but to use the limited projected openings to Europe as best we could and stick to the lower bands where the demand was keen even though the QSO rates might not be as high. We wanted the operators to be proficient in low band, RTTY and satellite operations. We also wanted to take the minimum number of operators but yet retain the ability to stay on all the open bands at the same time. It was decided that 3 stations would be required to cover propagation and keep activity on the desired bands to a maximum. We drew up our equipment list with those objectives in mind. Our operation was a fine example of how a few people with a little organisation and lots of effort can quickly organise some very tough logistics. Tom contacted Ham Radio Outlet both Hygain and ICOM (with the help of HRO). I searched for satellite equipment and also contacted Heil Sound, W0CD and the Battle Creek Special gang,

AEA, and Antennaco. Bob contacted the major US foundations for financial assistance and he also volunteered to be in charge of our computer networking and software needs. Lloyd concentrated on operation logistics, European foundation support and PR (our resident photographer). He also volunteered along with his XYL Ruby to do the QSL chores. In addition to those tasks we all made substantial equipment purchases of radios, amplifiers and laptop computers. Requests for funding were sent to the Northern California DX Foundation, INDEXA, the Chiltern DX Club and the RSGB HF DXpedition Fund. The responses were almost immediate and very generous. In only a month we had 25% of the projected budget covered. Local DX clubs also made contributions including the Southern New England DX Assn, Salt City (NY) DX Club, and the Western NY DX Assn. Financial assistance was also received from the 59(9) report and ZJ Electronics.



CDXC Member Lloyd Westbrook, K4HQI at the operating position on 30m

Ham Radio Outlet arranged with ICOM for a loan of a 736 and Hygain for 4 antennas, a TH3, an Explorer 14, a 6 metre beam and a DX 77 vertical. JA8CDG, JA2RW and JAMSAT loaned us 2 metre and 70CM equipment (more on this later). The Battle Creek crew put one of their 3 units on a bus to Boston so we could hand carry it as baggage. Antennaco of New Hampshire loaned us a 70cm antenna for our satellite station; Heil Sound sent three headsets and foot switches; Both AEA and NI6T loaned us PK232s; The Radio Works gave us all our coax requirements (not a small order) and several individuals donated equipment right out of their stations.

Going to Wake is not a trivial task. Nor is it cheap. Commercial airfare to Hawaii was expensive and we had to pay the U S Air

Force for the ride to Wake. There is no shopping around for a better fare, they have a nice monopoly. We had over 550 pounds of shipable antennas, amplifiers, cable, TNCs, etc. We hand carried all the transceivers and computers. Our freight bills quickly approached \$1,000.00. Our airfare to Wake Island would cost us another \$6,500.00. Food and lodging on Hawaii and Wake came to \$1,600.00. Certain equipment had to be bought because we needed two additional transceivers, amps, various miscellaneous gear. QSLs would have to be printed (another \$500.00). Even after the above mentioned donations, each member was committed to cover his share of the remaining \$6,500 plus the equipment purchases that averaged another \$1,500.00 per person. DXpeditions are not cheap vacations, but they can be fun.



The team outside a Japanese bunker

This photograph is used for the front of the QSL card

By November, we started receiving the equipment. I got a call in the early part of the month from Ken, JA8CDG. Ken would fly from Tokyo with the equipment to make sure I was experienced before reaching Wake with the satellite gear (6800 miles from home is no place to open a radio for the first time). Ken reached Boston on a typical New England day - blinding snow and wind. United had other plans for his baggage and radios. They were sunning themselves in warmer climes. We had a very pleasant visit for a few days but alas, no radio. Ken and I went over the methods of doing satellite but his baggage arrived only hours before I had to drive him to the airport. After he left I finally got the antennas built, everything hooked up and the following day, my first contact on AO13 was with AH6NM in Hawaii! I proceeded to work AO10 and 13 from home for a week then packed up the gear and shipped out the equipment.

Tom received the 736 from ICOM and we prepared all the interfaces etc. Both Tom and Lloyd bought IC706s and we also tested these with interfaces, etc. NI6T and AEA sent PK232s (never go away without a backup!) and Tom and Bob bought AL80 linears.

Via the Internet I contacted AH6NB, Jim on Kauai, about finding a source of push up masts in Honolulu. He called the Radio Shacks in Hawaii and found two masts at one about a mile from our hotel. He paid for them and sent me email that we could pick them up on our way to the airport and return them on our way back. As it was we just had to drop them off with a freight forwarder for shipment to Jim after we were back and he picked up the shipping costs. We found out later that Jim never even tried to work us as he didn't need us anywhere. Now that is real ham spirit!



Big Gun DXers? This gun, which was used by the Japanese, was captured from the British in Singapore, and moved to Wake Island.

It was now late December and we had a month to go. Tom was busy with the permission forms for entrance to the island. I was writing the home page (still available at <http://www.aurumtel.com/wake/>) and Bob was testing out the radio interfaces. Plans and preparations were proceeding unusually smooth. Then it happened. One afternoon while Tom was at work he received the bad news that due to a scheduling conflict we would not be allowed on the island the week we had planned for and we were told to reschedule our trip one week. After our panic subsided we all agreed to march on. All of us had to incur extra expense in busted airline confirmations but we had no choice. We were committed to going. Equipment was being received on Wake and nothing was lost or appeared to be damaged.

We decided to reconnoitre in Honolulu a day early (Monday, January 29) to get over some of the jet lag, meet to test the computer network, do a little sightseeing and have some extra time just in case of plane mishaps, etc. We also needed to pick up the masts for the antennas and get some snack foods to supplement the mess hall which had very strict eating hours (that coincided with grey line openings).

As it happened, planning to allow for delays paid off. Tom, Lloyd and Bob were to meet in San Francisco (I had to go through Los Angeles) but all four of us were to arrive in Honolulu at the same time. I arrived on time but the United flight from SFO was delayed 7 hours. Tom and Lloyd were entertained by Bob at his home in Berkeley. By the time the weary 3 touched down at 10pm I had rented the van, been to the hotel and even had a nap.

On Tuesday we woke early and started our errands. Bob was doing what he likes second best (operating being number 1), playing with the computers and networking. I had

the keys to the van so I got to play cabby in Honolulu, not a bad spot to drive coming from snowy Boston, and off we went. We did our shopping, picked up the masts and even found time to go over to Pearl Harbor and the Submarine Museum. We had a wonderful dinner at a restaurant where you cook your own steak and fish on a huge grill and turned in early. A very productive and yet relaxing day before our great adventure.

Our departure was from the military terminal at Hickham Air Force Base Wednesday morning. As we were going up the plane steps Tom looked back at me and said something about the weight of the radios we were carrying. The person behind me said, "Are you guys going on a DXpedition?" All of us stopped dead in our tracks. Turned out his name was Mark and he was N6NZO going on business from Hawaii. You never know where hams will turn up. Out of 20 people boarding a flight to a small speck in the middle of the Pacific five of the passengers were now hams! Mark was a welcome addition to the crew and he often came by helping out wherever he could.

The next six hours were spent in a cargo hold of a C141 facing backwards. The plane was pressurised but the noise from the engines required the use of earplugs. Most of us spent the time dozing or typing messages to our loved ones on my portable PC for sending on the Internet once we arrived on Wake.

We arrived on Wake at about 2 pm local time Thursday (it is 2 hours earlier and a day later than Hawaii, being over the dateline). Our first order of business was an orientation by the base commander. We then toured the island with our local contact, Mr. Sam Kaapuni the Fire Chief, looking for an appropriate operating site. We found and were given permission to use a building away from the main centre. It was an old

barracks with adequate power, sleeping quarters and near the water. By 4 PM we had gathered all our equipment, taken a quick picture of the gear and set about the task of setting up the radios. Since it was now approaching sundown Tom started building the DX77 vertical while others started unpacking the radios and other equipment. Bob was busy with the computer network, Lloyd and I had started the Tribander and Mark was working on the WARC beam. Given that it had become dark by the time both Yagis were finished they were not put up until the following morning. We did get the DX77 up before it was too dark.

The only damage we found was a broken 572B. We had taken six extra finals for the two AL80s so we were prepared. By late in the evening the first station was ready and we put out a CQ on 40. AL7EL/KH9 was ON THE AIR. At 10:13pm JA3BSX made it into the log for our first QSO. It was slow the first night as we were starting late, missed both the European sunrise and the East Coast grey line and our Battle Creek special was still in the case. But, we kept taking turns at the one station while we unpacked the other equipment. During the night we finished setting up the other two HF operating positions, satellite station, RTTY station, put out the first Internet message about our arrival and assembled the WARC A3WS and satellite antennas. It was a very long day but we were all excited about making it to Wake.

The following morning we were up by dawn and off to breakfast at the mess hall. It would be the last meal we all ate together at the same time. After breakfast on Friday we hoisted the two Yagis and had two stations on the air, 20 metres into the US East Coast and 17 metres into the Southern and midwest USA. While Tom and Bob operated, Lloyd and I built the Battle Creek Special. This is a wonderful antenna. If commercial antennas were this strong and as

well documented antenna work would be a pleasure. It only took 2 hours to get it up. That included running out 36 70 foot radials! But putting it up was only half the fun. Any of you who heard us on 40, 80 or 160 know that this performed fantastically. Our signals were loud everywhere and fully 52% of our QSOs on 40, 80 and 160 metres. On 3 of the 6 days there was rain in the area and signals were often at the QRN levels.

In the early afternoon the bands would completely die for a few hours. We took advantage of this time to do maintenance on the stations, beach comb, nap or look around the island. Wake Island fell to the Japanese in the first days of W.W.II and was heavily fortified. So fortified in fact, that it was heavily bombed during the war but never invaded. There are pillboxes, gun emplacements, tunnels, underground bunkers everywhere. Also, the Pan Am "Clipper" terminal and facilities remain partially standing. One of our first QSOs was with Bill Ewing, W1EYT, whose father piloted the second clipper to land there. The Lagoon is beautiful, with green blue water and lots of fish swimming near the shore. A complete history of the island and pictures we took there are on our Internet web site.

By day two we had our routine down. At sunrise, the place to be was on 40 and 80 to maximise the European QSOs. Each mid morning we were on 20 and 30 working the US East Coast. Late mornings the MUF would rise to 17 metres while 20 remained open to the West Coast. We could work Asia all afternoon, get some sleep, eat lunch and relax. By 6:00 PM 20 metres would open for 30 min. short path to Europe. On the third day of the operation we received email from DF6JC saying that he was hearing the Pacific long path at 8 UTC (8pm our time), well after we had QSYd to 30. Well, that night after the 20 metre opening died I turned the antenna long path and, what do you know? We stretched the 20 metre European opening each night by

another hour and DF6JC made it into the log (his only QSO for an all time new one). The majority of our European phone QSOs were made during this opening as we were mostly unsuccessful in working Europe on the low bands. The feedback daily on the Internet was wonderful. In addition to being alerted to band openings, this gave people a chance to vent frustration (usually followed a day later with hearty congratulations for a job well done now that they were in the log). We also received daily updates from AA1V on solar flux, snow back home, etc.

The weekend was "Prime Time at Wake". Everyone was home and the low bands were exceptional. Our run rates from the three stations on 30, 40 and 80 at times hit over 500 per hour. At one point we had all three bands open into Europe. Only having one 80/160 antenna was a disadvantage as when 30 closed and we wanted to work top band we had to close down the 80 metre station.

But, all in all, the mail we have received clearly shows we made lots of guys happy on 160 (see the QSO recap box).

The satellite station was up by day two but as luck would have it AO10 was totally turned off to recharge it's batteries and AO13 had it's antenna turned away from the earth. Signals were extremely weak. Lloyd's keyer did not key the 440 rig and I stayed on phone. After the first two days of struggling with the weak signals and many hours of CQing with no response I took a spare paddle into the room and used it on its side like a straight key. It worked to a fashion (it's only been 30 years since I used a straight key) and we finished with 60 satellite QSOs to 5 continents under very poor conditions. JA8CDG finally made it into the log on the last day. Ken's efforts to procure the gear, fly to Boston in a blizzard, and send me email daily on the bird openings made that a well deserved contact!



WAKE ISLAND 1996

ZONE 31

IOTA - OC-053



Wake Island, a tiny island formed millions of years ago by volcanic action is rich in history and unlike most DXpedition destinations is known to many people outside ham radio. It has served as a US Military Base in the Pacific since before WWII and is the first US possession west of the International Date Line being 2600 miles west of Hawaii.

The Dateline DX Association activated WAKE ISLAND with two primary goals, working both Europe and East Coast North America and providing 40, 80 and 160 meter QSO's to those who needed it. AL7EL's 1995 limited operation proved a need existed.

The team of AL7EL, WB2DND, K4HQI and N6EK operated for six days completing 8733 QSOs. Of the QSO total, 5722 were on CW, 2811 on SSB, 140 on RTTY, and 40 on satellite. 40, 80, & 160 meter contacts produced 52% of the total QSOs. The success of the low band effort is attributed to the effectiveness of the "Battle Creek Special". Without that antenna the operation would not have been nearly as successful.

The Dateline DX Association wishes to thank Mr. Sam Kaapuni, Chief of Fire and Emergency Services on Wake Island for his support in arranging our visit and assisting us while on the island. Also thanks go to Mr. Mike Timmons, Project Manager and Mr. Paul Fusco, Site Manager for their support.

We also express our sincere gratitude to the Northern California DX Foundation, The Chiltern DX Club/RSGB HF DX Fund, INDXX, The Rochester NY DX Association, The Salt City DX Association, The Southern New England DX Association, The Western NY DX Association, The 5909 DX Report, and ZJ Electronics for their financial assistance. Without equipment assistance from ICOM America, Teles HyGain, Ham Radio Outlet, The Battle Creek Group, The Radio Works, Heil, AEA, Timewave, N16T, K16WF, AH6NB, AA1V, JA8CDG and JAMSAT, this operation would not have been possible. A special thanks to Ruby, KE4VRR, VYL of K4HQI for handling QSL chores.



HEIL

Tom, AL7EL Don, WB2DND
Lloyd, K4HQI Bob, N6EK

QSL to K4HQI
Box 638
Commerce, GA 30529

SAMPLE

The reverse of the AL7EL/KH9 QSL card, showing joint CDXC/RSGB logo

By Monday afternoon things started to get a little quiet, and we were clearly exhausted. In a very quiet period I figured we needed a little levity. While no one was calling I answered a fictitious stateside call and screamed into the mike, "N4XXX this is the third QSO on this band. That makes 12 contacts. How many !@#\$\$%^ times do you need to work us!" Of course, I never hit the foot-switch but the others didn't know that. I wish I had a videotape of the look of horror on Bob's face. I am still watching my back as he is going to get me someday for that.

The week went by extremely fast. Before we knew it, day six was here and it was time to start packing the equipment. First we took down the RTTY and satellite stations, WARC beam and tribander. We disassembled them during the evening after sundown while keeping two stations on the low bands during the night. That was a very tight schedule as we needed to have the carry on luggage ready at the airport at 10 AM. As soon as sunlight came Lloyd and I packed the "special" while Tom and Bob packed the other gear. We soon learned that our pickup flight had been delayed several hours due to equipment problems and it was a good thing. We did not get everything fully packed until about 2 hours after we were scheduled to be at the airport! The plane did finally show up about 6 hours late so all was well in the end, but if that had not happened it would have been mayhem.

It was now exactly a week after we arrived on Wake. We all sat around waiting for the flight and seemed totally out of it. Each of us has a different highlight of the week. Bob enjoyed that grave yard shift on top band night after night. On Saturday I logged N1QMM, my son Micah, on 17 CW followed by a phone QSO the next day. Lloyd contacted his wife on 20 phone. All of us had a chance to chat with old friends on the radio while Tom enjoyed visiting with his friends he met while on Wake last year. There were no disasters, just minor problems that were dealt with when they

occurred and overcome by teamwork.

This operation would not have happened without the assistance of a great many people. Foundations and clubs provided financing while manufacturers loaned us equipment supplemented by individuals who loaned us parts of their stations right out of their shacks. Most importantly, our families understood our need to go out and get the rush of a pileup. All the planning is over, the trip is but a blur in our minds I have lots of fond memories of this little patch of coral reef in the middle of nowhere and of sharing an adventure with three other great operators.

AL7EL/KH9 1996 STATISTICS

CW	5752
SSB	2811
RTTY	140
TOTAL	8703

BAND	CW	SSB	RTTY	TOTAL
160	455	5		460
80	1434	426		1860
40	1901	226		2127
30	508			508
20	646	1206	67	1919
17	529	590	14	1133
15	213	270	59	542
12	31	31		62
10	30			30
SAT	5	57		62
TOTAL	5752	2811	140	8703

CW - 66% SSB - 32% Other - 2%

52% - 40, 80, 160 metres

North America	44%
Asia	40%
Europe	14%
Pacific	2%
South America	-

MYKONOS REVISITED

Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH

Following the undoubted success of my 1995 holiday operation from the Island of Mykonos (IOTA EU-067) as SV8/G3SWH, I was no less than actively encouraged by my wife, Jan to take some radio again this year.

There were no problems in booking the same accommodation, and the owner, Paris Panayoyopoulos even made the same apartment available for us. We were dismayed to learn that there were to be no direct flights this year. It is the apparent view of the UK tour operators that Mykonos has become so expensive that nobody can afford to go there any more! Initial enquires of airlines and charter companies produced exorbitantly high quotations for flights from London to Athens, which tended to support this view. We finally settled for a relatively good deal from Greek island specialists

Simply Simon Holidays for an outward Olympic night flight from Heathrow to Athens, and an early morning flight from Athens to Mykonos, with return times at more sociable hours.

It is fairly important to fly Olympic under such circumstances, as you otherwise have to deal with the hassle of changing airport terminals at Athens. This has the added advantage that you are able to book your hold baggage right through from London to Mykonos, and nobody was more surprised than me when it turned up.

I took the Yaesu FT-101ZD again, as the IOTA FT-990AT was already booked for another operation. The security staff at Heathrow were a bit more switched on than at Gatwick last year and actually queried what I was carrying, but accepted the explanation of "a radio transmitter" without further comment.



Phil Whitchurch, SV8/G3SWH at the operating position

We arrived on the island at about 0730 local time on 1st June and found that our room was still occupied. Paris and his delightful sister Maya entertained us with coffee and brought us up to date on all the gossip since last year. As soon as our room was available, we got unpacked and settled in.

Paris was so helpful, even to the point of providing a bamboo pole and the loan of a rickety pair of steps so that I could get onto the roof to rig the centre of the antennas a few feet higher. I used the same multi-band dipole arrangement which I had used last year and in my Chausey Islands (IOTA EU-037) operation earlier this year, with the exception that I had found and rectified the fault preventing me from using 20 metres.

Once I had the antennas rigged, having been on our feet for about 24 hours non stop, we elected to have a few hours sleep, and my first QSO was on 30 metres with YO2BP at 1437 UTC. Conditions were not good, and I tried 20 metres for a while, but did not want to get tangled up with NFD, and moved to 17 metres just after 1500 UTC. I was then able to run a fairly consistent European pile up until about 1630 UTC, when it was time to close and go for dinner and hit the high spots of the town.

Activity then fell into the same pattern as last year, a session of 1-2 hours in the mornings starting around 0700 UTC, followed by a similar session in the afternoon starting at around 1500 to 1600 UTC. I clocked up a total of about 22 hours operating, split up into 13 separate sessions. There was sprinkling of DX - a respectable number of JAs, a solitary ZL, a couple of PYs and a few Ws and I made a total of 1223 QSOs with 56 DXCC countries. This brought my total DXCC score for the two operations to 65, although the average rate per hour was down about 8%.

When I got home and started to analyse the log I was very surprised at the number of duplicate QSOs - total of 47, whereas there were only 9

last year. One HA station made a duplicate QSO less than 15 minutes after his first. Don't these guys keep log books? I made a point of giving my call at least every three QSOs and usually after each one, but without a computer, it was impossible to keep track of - and filter out - duplicates.

The largest number of contacts by far was with Germany, totalling 224, followed by European Russia, totalling 107. Contacts with England totalled 96, making it a respectable 3rd. The table shows some of the statistics.

Band	40	30	20	17	15	TOTAL
Total	66	114	786	256	1	1223

I was appalled at some of the operating standards, thankfully not from UK amateurs. I particularly objected to strong stations breaking the pile up and then insisting on giving me their names, QTH and inside leg measurements etc. This seemed to happen again and again, and is really inexcusable as it effectively prevents other people from making a QSO. Only on one occasion was it sufficiently busy to warrant working split frequency, and I sometimes wonder whether it is necessary for minor operations to use it on every occasion.

If you need one, QSLs are available, either direct (I'm QTHR in any call book since 1970) or via the RSGB Bureau.

FT1000MP AUDIO MOD. UK PacketCluster Network

I have received in the post today (22 June) (via Jim W9WU), a Yaesu Technical Bulletin that details a mod to the FT1000MP that will increase the AF gain and provide a better match to the Heil headphone.

Basically, it involves removing the AF unit board and changing two resistors. I do not know how this would affect your guarantee - but if you want details, leave me your FAX number or send an SASE.

73 Steve GW4BLE >GB7DXC (or
GW4BLE@aol.com)

HOLIDAY VISIT TO PENANG (AS-015) - 9M2/G4JVG

Steve Telenius-Lowe, G4JVG.

I have recently returned from a two-week visit to Penang (Pulau Pinang) in Malaysia with Eva, from where I operated as 9M2/G4JVG. Although primarily a holiday (as opposed to radio operation) I thought it would be interesting to take the rig along, particularly as Penang Island counts as AS-015 for IOTA.

Licensing

Neville, G3NUG, kindly let me have Malaysian licence application forms and a vast amount of information on Malaysian licensing, which apparently could take up to nine months to complete - or even end in refusal. We only booked the holiday four weeks before departure, but still thought it worth trying for a licence in the short time available.

There are a couple of peculiarities: one is that in addition to the standard application form there is a Statutory Declaration form which you must swear before a commissioner of oaths that any messages you may hear which are unintended for public reception must only be passed on to relevant Malaysian authorities and to no-one else. I did this at a local solicitor's office, for which I was charged £5. The second oddity is that although there is a head office in Kuala Lumpur ("KL") which handles licensing, when I contacted them they were insistent that I should send my application to their local office in Penang, and not to them at all. Perhaps this is because my application was for a short-term reciprocal licence and not a resident's licence; it would be chaos if all eight regional offices were each issuing full 9M2 callsigns!

After a couple of weeks I received a fax from the Director, Northern Region, of Jabatan Telekom Malaysia asking four

supplementary questions, three of which had already been answered on the original application form. The fourth asked for my "permanent residential address in Malaysia". Of course I don't have a residential address in Malaysia, permanent or otherwise, but I replied by fax, repeating the name and address of the hotel (which was also on the original application form!) and this apparently satisfied him.

Three days before departure I had heard no more, so I resorted to the phone and spoke with the Director himself. He confirmed that my application was in order but wanted to see the original (not a photocopy) of my UK Validation Document, which he asked me to bring with me. I would then be able to pick up the Malaysian licence in person after my arrival.

Customs

The flight to KL is about 14 hours, with an additional 45-minute flight to Penang. The luggage was checked through from Heathrow to Penang, but upon arrival in Penang it became clear that the luggage of everyone who had flown in from London had not arrived with us.

Chaos, uncertainty, a false alarm, and much form-filling followed, during which time I noticed that customs were going through the baggage of everyone who had flown on the same flight, but who had originated from places other than London. This was slightly worrying for a while, as I only had a verbal promise of a licence (I had at least brought photocopies of the application forms, and my original UK licence), but by the time all the lost baggage forms had been completed, customs had given up for the day and gone home.

It transpired that the luggage had got as far as KL but hadn't been put on the connecting flight. It came on the next flight and was delivered direct to our hotel room just a few hours later. This is very convenient and is to

be highly recommended, it saves having to worry about customs and having to heave heavy suitcases through airports and on transfer buses!

Hotel

Knowing that our hotel (the Ferringhi Beach Hotel, about 2 miles from Batu Ferringhi on the north coast of Penang) was a multi-storey affair, as soon as I had the verbal OK on the licence I had attempted to fax them to ask for a top floor room. I was unable to get through, and never did find out why their fax machine wasn't working. We were put into a seventh floor room, at least 100ft below the roof level. I had brought 30m of co-ax - not enough. At this stage I gave up the battle against jet-lag until the following morning.

The duty manager went out of his way to be helpful and arranged for us to move to the top floor. However, he insisted on seeing a licence before he gave permission for me to use the equipment in his hotel. So we took our first trip into George Town, Penang's fascinating capital, to find the licensing office in Downing Street (!). Sure enough, the licence (callsign "9M2G4JVG" - with no "/") was ready, but the licensing officer, See Seng Poh, wasn't going to let me get away that easily, oh no! We had a 45-minute conversation, and he was even able to sell me a copy of their publication "How to Become a Radio Amateur" for RM10 (about £3). I already knew how to become a radio amateur, but it was the only documentary evidence of bands of operation, power limits etc, as there was no schedule attached to the licence.

Back at the hotel, the duty manager examined the licence, made photocopies of it in case of police inspection (he said), changed our room and went up on to the roof with me. The building was about 200ft high, with what seemed like several acres of flat roof, on which sat the huge cold water tanks, air conditioning plant, lift mechanisms

etc. There was more than enough space for a topband dipole, if I had taken one. Several TV aerials and some VHF communications aerials were at one end of the building, fortunately well away from where I put up my antenna.

Equipment

I took a Yaesu FT-890AT, and for the first time a small SRW 'Loudenboomer' 400W amplifier, which weighs in at about 7kg. My experience as P29DX taught me that from 'remote' locations, where virtually every QSO is DX, it is a waste of time attempting to use just 100W on 40 and 80m, at least on SSB. The Loudenoomer went into one aircraft carry-on bag, and the FT-890AT went into another, along with a Heil headset with HC-4 microphone and a 386 notebook PC for logging.

In order to keep the overall weight down, I took an Icom PS-35 20A switch-mode power supply (designed for internal fitting in the IC-751) instead of my usual Revex 30A conventional power supply, and this went in the checked-in baggage, heavily swathed in towels and T-shirts. Also in the suitcase was 30m of RG-58 co-ax, two short patch leads of RG-58, radial wires, string, a linear switching cable, a small CB-type SWR bridge / field strength meter etc.

The Butternut HF6V vertical was the other piece of checked-in baggage. I favour this antenna for simple DXpeditions because it fits into a box just 4ft long by 4in square, it weighs only 5kg, and gives reasonably efficient performance on six of the nine HF bands (it works after a fashion on 18 and 24MHz too, if you have an ATU.)

The total weight of the checked-in luggage was 33kg, well within the permissible limit for two people. The two cabin bags are the officially-accepted size and were quite manageable weight-wise, albeit somewhat heavier than the theoretical maximum of

5kg. I have never yet known these to be weighed, although it apparently does happen on particularly full flights. Being 7kg under the limit on checked-in baggage, I was not worried.

Operation

The first disaster occurred when tuning up the Butternut. After an adjustment to the SWR on 40 and 80m, I returned to the room from the roof to find the rig dead. Absolutely nothing! The Icom power supply had packed up after no more than a few minutes use. I had tested it at home before departure and it seemed fine. It worked long enough in the hotel for me to check the SWR on each band, and then died, without even a single QSO in the log!

Mr See at the licensing office had given me the phone numbers of two of Penang's amateurs, saying that there was a get-together on Friday evenings at which he knew I would be made very welcome. I was now hoping that one of the locals may be able to lend me a power supply, but it transpired that one of the two was in Thailand, the other in the USA! Fortunately, the wife of one of them gave me more phone numbers, and eventually I contacted David, 9M2PX, who said he had a power supply which I could use. He and Lim, 9M2LC, would pick me up on Friday evening for the weekly get-together and would bring a power supply with them.

The Friday evening meeting was great fun in a Chinese-Malay coffee shop, with exotic food such as satay and noodle dishes at less than £1 each.

Back at the hotel at almost midnight with David's power supply I switched on the rig to find 20m wide open to Europe. Using 100W, I made 113 European QSOs in the first hour, including no fewer than 21 G stations, but by this time it was after 1.00am and time for bed.

I checked the TVI situation using 400W - all 350 hotel rooms had a colour TV set, obviously fed by some sort of distribution amplifier system. Absolutely clear - not a flicker, presumably thanks to the distance between the Butternut and the TV aerials. But then the second disaster struck: there was a flash from inside the Loudenboomer and all the power went off. Fortunately there was a circuit breaker for the room, and this had tripped: I hadn't fused the whole hotel! A fuse had also blown in the amp, but when I replaced it, the same thing happened again. Believing the problem to be one of the four PL519 TV sweep tubes, I replaced all four with new ones. This time when I switched on, the anode meter momentarily went full scale, and then nothing - no standing current and no output at all. Putting the original valves back made no difference. I was stuck with using just 100W.

The bands

All of them were almost completely dead during the day. I had expected to be able to work JA just about any time, but this wasn't the case: 15m was above the MUF and the absorption on 20m was too high. However, the second night of operation on 20m provided good signals and another European pile-up, although not quite as good as the first frenetic one hour of operation the previous night.

After the first couple of days, though, conditions were absolutely dreadful. I could call CQ for 10 minutes without getting a single reply - and did, every day. One day (only) there was a short run, mainly of JAs, on 15m. I worked a few JAs and other Asian stations on 40m and two Russians, but no other Europeans. I heard an Italian at 59+ on 40m around 1600GMT but he did not hear me at all. On 80m I heard just four stations, one JA, two W6s, one of which almost, but not quite, got my callsign correct, and one Italian, who didn't hear me at all. This was with a vertical mounted 200ft high

overlooking the sea with a perfect sea-path take-off towards JA, W and EU. With the amplifier I would certainly have worked the W6s on 80m, but since I heard so few stations on 40 and 80m I doubt I would have been able to work very much more even with the amplifier.

Socialising

At the Friday get-together Chow, 9M2CF, and Chen, 9M2FL, had invited us on a day-trip to another island, Pulau Payar, which lies between Penang and Langkawi. It is a marine park, and Chow, Chen and some 15 others were going there for some snorkelling the following Wednesday, a Malaysian national holiday. Establishing with IOTA Manager Roger, G3KMA, that Pulau Payar counted only as Langkawi (AS-058) I elected not to take the rig. In the event this was the correct decision, as being a national holiday, the island was extremely crowded, and the place was swarming with police and marine park officials, as the Minister of Fisheries had chosen that day to make an official visit to the island. We saw plenty of fish in the crystal-clear waters instead.

The following Friday, David and Lim again kindly gave us a lift to the coffee-shop meeting, where we met almost the whole of Penang's amateur population. There are around 30 amateurs on the island - far more than I had thought - but, as in the UK, most are not active. Some who are active are only on the 2m repeater, which leaves only a few on HF.

Although not active on HF, several of the Chinese amateurs on Penang are keen constructors, including David, 9M2PX, and Chow, 9M2CF, who is the PCB specialist. The favourite project at present is the 40A PSU from RadCom, and two or three of these are at present under construction using Chow's PCBs.

Of those active on HF, only two could be called DXers. Eshee, 9M2FK, is a Malay,

although most of Penang's amateurs are from the Chinese ethnic community. Eshee has been licensed since pre-independence days in the mid-50s and now lives on the top floor of an apartment block with dipoles over 200ft high. He operates mainly 20 and 40m CW and was on the 1993 9M0S Spratly expedition with Martti Laine, OH2BH. Eshee was one of the founders of SEANET and is married to a young Thai lady - he speaks fluent Thai as well as Malay and English.

Probably the most active amateur on Penang at present is Tex, 9M2TO, who is from Japan and is working there as the manager of a Japanese factory. He has made over 8000 QSOs during his first eight months on Penang and is on DXCC Honor Roll from his home QTH in Japan. His home call is JA0DMV and he is also licensed as WX2W. Tex speaks good English and works some SSB, but prefers CW. He has recently ordered an IOTA Directory and started on IOTA. Indeed, most of the Penang amateurs were aware of the IOTA Programme and have AS-015 printed on their QSLs.

If anyone is planning a Far Eastern holiday we can thoroughly recommend Penang. There is a lot to see, culturally and historically (Malay Moslem mosques, Chinese temples, Thai / Burmese Buddhist temples, Hindu temples, colonial British architecture), and scenically (Penang Hill is higher and has a better view than the Peak in Hong Kong, and the beaches are good, if not spectacular). The climate is hot, it's safe, the people are friendly, and the food from all three main ethnic groups is truly excellent. It is not too difficult to get an amateur radio licence (in fact the locals told me I could have got one in person in half a day, but whether this is only the case at the Penang office I'm not sure). The local amateurs are as friendly and helpful as you'll find anywhere in the world.

DXPEDITION TO ROBBER ISLAND IOTA AF-064

Barry Fletcher, ZS1FJ

In July 1995, at a committee meeting of the Cape Town Branch of the SA Radio league, I mooted the idea of a DXpedition to Robben Island. Readers will know that the island has a notorious history, having been, in the early days of the colonisation of the Cape, a leper colony, and subsequently, a prison.

More recently, Nelson Mandela, the current President of South Africa, was jailed there for some 20 years. Robben Island still houses a prison community, but this will not be for long, as the island is to come under the jurisdiction of the Department of conservation at the end of this year.

The idea mooted was greeted with some doubt, as previous attempts to activate the island had met with no success. Of course, AF-064 had been activated briefly by a group of radio amateurs on Dassen Island. However, I believed that Robben Island would be of much more interest here and abroad.

The writer, having a tenacious nature, negotiated with the Department of Correctional Services, and after a wait of some months of persevering and general negotiating with the authorities, succeeded in securing permission for, as it was put, "one time only" operation. It was not to be advertised except to the ham community.

Needless to say, Dudley ZS1DB, the Chairman, and our Committee, were delighted, and we all co-operated in putting the DXpedition together. Dudley got on very well with the island staff, and sorted out most of the logistical matters.

We planned a four day trip, and on Friday 26th January 1996, 16 of us, including four XYLS, left by boat for the island. We had recced the island a few weeks previously, and with the help of a senior departmental staff member, had found two excellent sites, one outside the cottages in which we were to be accommodated, and the other quite

high up on the watch tower on the highest point on the island.

So, arriving at about 2pm on the Friday, it did not take us long to get the antennas up. Antennas for every band 2m - 160m were erected, including two Yagis and various wire antennas.

Denis ZS1AU, Maurice ZS1ACH, and myself ZS1FJ were responsible for the watch tower site operation with my new Cushcraft A3S. Dudley ZS1DB was responsible for 2m and general co-ordination, while Alan ZS1AAX was our CW expert at the other site. Bud ZS1B did sterling work on all bands 40m - 160m including WARC, on both CW and SSB. Other operators were Bernie ZS1BW, Dirk ZS1X, Tim ZS1TGH, Rassie ZS1YT, Karl ZS1KC and Hugo ZR1ACL. We operated around the clock except for around 2-4am, when propagation was minimal.

Over the period 5pm Friday to 2am Monday, we worked about 3000 QSOs in 93 countries on all bands. Everyone had a great time, and we plan to repeat the operation next January, God willing. The XYLS were even taken on a tour of the island.

We were well fed at the island cafeteria. The very excellent Maitre D and his staff we discovered were inmates of the prison. No problem landing a job when they get out, I'd say!!

Our colour QSL cards have been received by our QSL Manager, Phyllis KA1JC, and will be on their way soon, direct or via the bureau.

We are looking forward to our next DXpedition, in October this year, on Seal Island outside Mossel Bay, which is an unnumbered IOTA, but approved by the RSGB IOTA Committee. We will have the AF number after we have worked five countries and 50 contacts. However, that is a risky operation in shark infested waters, on an island that is very difficult to land on.

160M SPOTS; NOVEMBER 1995 - MAY 1996

Dave Sharred, G3NKC

I thought it may be of interest to readers just to see what DX has been reported from Europe over the last season - these are all from 160m spots off packet cluster, so there may always be more out there. Also, November was not a full month, since I never got my computer sorted until mid-November.

The number of countries listed represents 178 DXCC countries; more than I've worked in a lifetime on 160!

Without doubt, this was an outstanding season, and may not be repeated again. It is noticeable that there is now less activity, and possibly more N/S spots than over the winter. However, if you have a bout of insomnia, then try a listen or a call or two!

MAY 1996

4L4KK	4S7RL	4X4NJ	9H3TY
9L3VN	9K2MU	9M2AX	A45ZZ
C31LD	CX2CB	CX4DI	CX4SS
DL	EA	EA6	EA8PP
EA9	EI9CJ	EM1KA	EM1U
ES5Q	FR/DL1VJ	G	GU
HB0	LY7A	MJ/K2WR	OE1A
OH0	OT6A	PA6WPX	PY2DP
PY5CC	RW2F	S50U	SN6F
SV	T98BBF	TF3TF	UR
VE1,2	VK6APZ	VP2EY	YL8M
YT0W	ZA1AJ	ZB2/DL7CM	
ZL1HY	ZL2JR	ZS6KT	ZS6UT

APRIL 1996

3A	3V8BB	4U1ITU	4K9C
4L4KK	4X	5N0T	5X4F
6W6/K3IPK	7X2AB	9G1MR	9J2GA
9K2MU	9M2AX	A45ZZ	A61AF
A92BE	CT1	CU2	CX2CB
CX4SS	D44BC	DL1	EA
EA6	EA8	EW	F
FG5BG	FM5BH	G	GD
GM	GU	HK7/SM5HIV	I
IS0/YO3RA	J56DY	JW5HE	JX2GV
JX7DFA	KP4AAQ	KP4SN	LJ1FA
L2ZWA	OD5NJ	OK	PJ5AA
PY2DP	PY2EYE	PY5CC	SOA

S92SS	SP	SV	SV2ASP/A
SV9	T77C	T9	TF3TF
TK/DJ8QP/P	TI8BP	UA0ACG	UA2
UA9	UK8CAK	UN0AA	UU
VE1ZZ	VE2RP	VK3DXI	VK6HD
W0,1,2,8	WP4HW	XQ8ABF	ZA1AJ
ZB2FX	ZD7VJ	ZL1HY	ZL2BPG
ZL2JR	ZS6UT		

MARCH 1996

3A2HB,MD	4N0AV	4S7RPG	4U1ITU
4U1SCO	4X	5B4OG	5N0MVE
5X4F	6W6/K3IPK	7X5JF	7Z500
8P9Z	9A3A/4U	9H1BM	9K2MU
9M2AX	9U/EA1FH	9V1XQ	A45ZZ
A61AN	A92BE	AA6KX/KP4	C56CW
C56DX	C6AGN	CO2EG	CT8T
CU2/DL3KDV	CU2CE	D44BC	DL
EA	EA6	EA8	EM1KA
EN6Q	ER2GR	ES5Q	EY8AM
F	FG5FR	FM5BH	FM5DN
FS/WX9E	FS/WX9V	FS5PL	G
GU	I125Z	HA	HB9
HC8/WN4KKN	HC8N	I	J34FRE/6
JA4LXY	JW5NM	LA	LX
LY	LZ	ND3F/KP4	OE
OH0/OZ1FG	OH	OJ0	OK
OL	ON	OY9JD	OZ
P40MR	P40V	P49V	PA
PJ2/OH6XY	PJ9JT	PY2VA	R1FJZ/TJL
S50	SV	SV5TH	SV9CVN
T9	TA2H	TF3DX/1	TG9AJR
T12SW	T14CF	T15KD	TJ1GB
TR8IG	UA	UA0ACG	UA2
UA9	UK8	UN0	UR5
V26AS	V31DX	V31VB	VE1ZZ
VE2RP	VK3QI	VK5BC	VK6VZ
VO1MP	VP2E	VP2ES	VP5X
VP9/N2M/ZH	W01234569	WN4KNN/HC8	WP2AHW
XE1DV	YS1RRD	YS1RV	YS1ZS
YS1ZV	YU	ZA1	ZC4HIA
ZF2ND	ZL2JR	ZS1JX	ZS6KT
ZS6UT			

FEBRUARY 1996

4J/K	4S7RPG	4X4	5B4OG
5X4F	6Y5XX	7X2BK	7Z500
8P9DX	9A/K4XU	9A3A/4U	9H1SB
9K2MU	9M2AX	9V1XQ	A45ZZ
CF9DH	CM8PJ	CO7EH	CT8T
CU2	DF5WA/HB8	DL	EA
EA6	EA8	EG9BSN	E4HIM
ER	ES	EUEW	EY8AM
F	FG5FR	FP5AC	FS/WE9V
FS/WX9E	G	GI	GI0UJG
GI3YHU	GM	GW	HB9CXZ
HC8/WN4KKN	HK3MKQ	IS0QDV	JA145678
JW5NM	KL7XX	KP4AAQ	KP4GC
KP4ZV	LX	OEM61BM	OH
OK	OM	ON	OY
OZ1DPR	P4/K2LE	P40R	P49V

PA0VDV	PJ9/W1WEF	PJ9C	PJ9JT
PY0FF	RW2F	S5	SM
SP	SV8ZS	T70A	T77C
T9	TA2/U8ZAL	TA2BK	TF3CW/I
TF3DX/I	TI1C	TI4CF	TT8SS
UA	UA9	UA0ACG	UA0FDX
UA2FJ	UK8LA	UN7CBI	UR
V31JZ	VE1239	VK6VZ	VK9CR
VK9XY	VP2F/K14IN	VP2EE	VP2EEU
VP2EN	VP2EWW	VP2VA	VP5/JJ2QEH
VP5/JJ2QXI	VP5/K0KX	VU2DPI	W0123456789
WP4I1W	XE1RCH	XF3/OH2NSM	XF3/OH3JF
YO	YS1JRG	YS1X	YS1ZV
YV1DRK	ZA1AJ	ZB2FK	ZC4HA
ZL2BCG	ZL2SQ	ZS1JX	ZS6UT

JANUARY 1996

1A0KM	4K	4X4DK,NJ	4X6ZK
5N0MVE	5X4F	7X2VZK	8P9DX
9A3A/4U	9I1A	9K2MU	9M2AX
9M8FC	9V1XQ	9Y4SF	A45ZZ
AA5DX/KP4	C31IJ	CF9DH	CT1BOH
CT3/DL3KUJ		DF5WA/1I18	EIEK6GC
ER5GB	ES5MC	EW7DF	EX8W
EY8AM	EY8MM	FG5BG	FM5BI
GD	GI0KOW	GU	IB9
HK7/SM5HV	HK7DSZ	IL3/IK2NCJ	J20AD
J77A	JA1245678	JG3KIV/6Y5	JW5NM
JY4MB	KG4SH	KI16CC	KL7RA,XX
KP4ZV	LU6Z	L1U7XP	N3RD/VP9
OE	OT6A	OY9RI	P4/K9UWA
P40WA	P49I	PJ9/K8CC	PJ9/K8GG
PJ9/W8UVZ	PJ9JT	PJ9Z	PY0FF
PY2DP	PY7XC	R1FJZ	S79MX
SO3QL	SV2ASP/A	SV5TH	SV9CVN
T32Z	TA2DS	TF3DX	TG9NX
TI1C	TI4CF	TO5T	UA2
UA9	UK8CAK	UN7AM,1G	UX
V85IIG	VE1239	VK3DXI	VK3E/W
VK6HD,VZ	VO1NL	VP2E	VP2VI
VP5/KV1Y	VP9AD	VS6BG	VY1JA
VY2SS	W0123456789	WP2/K9BG	WP4I1W
XE1DIDD	XF3/OH2NSM	XF3/OH3JF	XU6WV
XW7SW	Y1IBGD	YS1JRG	YS1RRD
YS1ZV	YV1NX	YV1OB	ZA1AJ
ZL2JR	ZS1JX	ZS6UT	

DECEMBER 1995

1A0KM	3DA0CA	4J/K	4I4KK
4S7RP	4X	5B4AD/A/1I12	5B40G
5N0MVE	5N0T	5X4F	7X2VZK
9K2MU	9M2AX	9N1SW	9X4WW
A45ZZ/25	A71CW	AA5DX/KP4	AL7MX
C31HK,1A	DL	EA8CN	EW6CM
EX8W	EY8AM	FG5BG	FM5BI
HK6KKK	JA1456	JQ1SUO/JD1	JW5NM
JY60MB	KG4SH	KG4TG	KG4TJ

KL7RA	KL7Y	LU6Z	LU7XP
OH0MMF	OY1G	PP7JR	PY0FZ
R1FJZ	RA0AIJ	S92SS	SU2MT
SV2ASP/A	SV8ZS	T77C	TI4CF
UA0ACG	UA9	UN	VA9DIH
VK3DXI	VK4YB	VK6APZ	VK6HD,1W,VZ
VP5A	VS6BG	VU2PTT	W0123456789
XE2/WV5S	Y1IBGD	ZA1AJ	ZD8Z
ZL2SQ	ZS6UT		

NOVEMBER 1995

3A/K1VWL	3V8BB	4J/K	4M5X
4S7VK	4U0ITU	4X4	5N0MVE
5N0T	5X4F	6D2X	7Q7A
7X2VZK	7Z5OO	8P9IT	8P9Z
8Q7VJ	8R1K	9G5MF	9H1CG
9K2MU	9M2AX	9X/UN4WW	9Y4H
A45ZZ/25	A71CW	AL7MX	C4A
CT3/DK8W/P	CT9X	EA6ACC	EA8EA
EA9EU	EA9GK	4K6	EX2M
EX8W	EY8AM	FG5BG	FM5BI
GD4UOL	GI0KOW	GU3HFN	HC8N
HI12PK	HI4NAC	J45T	JA LOTS
JT1T	JW5NM	KG4MN	KL7XX
LX	NP4Z	OI10	OX3LK
OX3NUK	OY	P40W	P49V
PY0FF	PY2DP	PZ1EL	RK2FWA
SU2MT	SV1AFA	SV8ZC	T77C
T94ON	TA	TF	TI4CF
TK2C	TY5A	TY5MF	UA0ACG
UA0KAG	UA2FT	UA9	UF6VBI
UK8AA	UK8LA	V47KP	VE1,2,5
VK6HD	VK6VZ	VO2WL	VP2EFO
VP5/N9DX	VP5/W0UNE	V85HC	W0AIIH
W0123456789	WL7E	WX3N/1C8	WX9E/YV5
YS1ZV	YV1OB	ZA1AJ	ZB2FK
ZB2X	ZD8Z	ZL2JR	ZL2SQ
ZS6UT			

1995/96 TOP BAND TABLE

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

In the last issue of the NewsLetter, I requested entries for a Top Band table. Entry qualification level was 100 countries worked over the winter DX season. Only three entries were received, and, as I didn't define a "DX season", the entries spanned different periods. For what it's worth, here are the entries:

Call	Countries	Period
G4DBN	138	June 95-May 96
G3SED	120	Nov. 95-Apr 96
GW3JXN	108	Sept. 95-May 96

F6FNU QSL LIST

Eric Carling, G0CGL

F6FNU is QSL manager for the following stations. The list is complete and definitive.

AP2DX	AT0G	BV6IA	BV6IA/8
C52GB	C53GB	CE3AYZ	CE3DPD
CN8AR	CN28L	CN8AZ	CN8CC
CN8LG	CN8EL	CN8LU	CP2EN
CU2AX	CX1DX	CX3AN	CX4AAU
CX4CQ	CX9ABE	D25A	D2BG
D2SA	D3C	D3EC	D68MG
D68CF	D68SE	EA6WV	EA8BNO
EL8FB	ES5RY	F5JKK/5T5	F6GBQ
F6GGN	F6GWO	F6GBO	F0GTI
FD1MIZ/FK	FD1OMP	FD1OMP/FG	FD1OMP/FG89
FE9A	FE0A	FG4FR	FG5FZ
FG5FR	FG5CP	FG5GZ	FG5FG
FG89/FD1OMP	FG0A	FG/FD1OMP	FG/FH4EC
FH4EC	FH4ED	FH4EC/FRG	FH4ED/FRG
FH4EC/FR/G	FH15CL	FH5EA	FH5EA/FR
FH8CL	FH0A	FH/FR5ES	FK8FB
FK8FI	FK0A	FK0AR	FK0BF
FK0BG	FK0BQ	FK0/FD1MIZ	FK0BA
FK/FD1MIZ	FM4A	FM4DR	FM4DS
FM4CZ	FM4EB	FM4DP	FM4DU
FM4DN	FM5DS	FM5CZ	FM5EB
FM5WU	FM5DR	FM5ES	FM5WO
FM9A	FM0A	FO0AQ	FP4CJ
FP5CJ	FP8CJ	FP9A	FP0A
FP0MAR	FR4FA	FR4FA/J	FR0EU
FR4FA/P	FR4JA	FR4JA/J	FR4FA/J
FR5JA/J	FR5ER	FR5GL	FR5DC
FR5ES/E	FR5ES/G	FR5ES/J	FR5ES/T
FR5HG/E	FR5HG	FR5KH	FR5HG/G
FR5HG/T	FR5ES	FR5FA	FR7DC
FR7A	FR9A	FR0EH/J	FR0A
FR/G/FH4ED	FRG/FH4ED	FRG/FH4EC	FRG/FH4EC
FR/FH4EC	FR/FH4EC/G	FR/FR5ES	FR/FR5ES/J
FR/J/FR5ES	FT8XD	FT8WA	FT8ZA
FT0WA	FT0XD	FT0ZA	FT0DX
FT0X	FY4DH	FY4ED	FY5BI
FY7BI	FY0A	H22AA	H24LP
HI3JH	HI3JEI	HI3JY	HI8JH
HL1IE	HL88IE	HP1DSD	HP7/TI2LAK
IP0/TI2LAK	J28AG	J28NU/P	J28P
J28FO	J28NU	J41DO	J52UAH
J52UAB	J52UAC	J53UAC	J55UAB
J59UI	J59UAB	J59AUB	J50NU
J50NU	J5U9I	LX2KQ	OD5SF
OH3KM	OX3GM	SO1BDN	SO5BDN
T12LTA	TA2J	TA5ZA	TE2D
TE2L	TE88M	T12LAK/HP7	T12LTA
T12JP	T12MCL	T12LAK/HP	T12TEB
T12JP	T18A	T18M	T18CBT
T19M	T19TEB	TJ1CG	TJ1CH

TJ1MR	TJ/D2GB	TK4HC	TK4LD
TK5LN	TK5HC	TK5LD	TK5EL
TK8C	TK89EL	TK9A	TK9LAV
TK0KC/P	TK0A	TK0KC	
	TK/FD1MIZ		
TL8A	TL8RM	TL8MB	TL8FM/6W4
TL8A/M	TL8TM/6W4	TL8MD	TL8TM
TN1AT	TN8NU	TN8AT	TN0A
TO6FNU	TO8KJ	TP2CE	TP0SP
TR2A	TR3A	TR4A	TR5A
TR8CP	TR8YA	TR8MD	TR8VP
TR8SA	TR0A	TR8SA	TR8NU
TT8DJ	TT8SS	TT8DG	TT0A
TU2LN	TU2LN/TZ6	TU2QU	TU2QU/3X4
TU2QU/TZ6	TU2QU/3	TU2QU/4	TU2LN/TZ
TU2QU/3X	TU2QU/TZ	TU2NP	TU2QW
TU2QQ	TU4DC	TU4EF	TU4BQ
TU4DE	TU4DK	TU4DA	TU4SA
TU5AX	TU90A/TU4DO	TU90A/TU4DO	TU90A/TU2B
TU0A	TV9LAV	TV90A	TY1MD
TY1SA	TY1LCI	TY0LC	TZ6BG
TZ6NU	TZ6/TU2LN	UA0ABK	UI8QZ
UI8ACP	UI9A	UI9ACP	UK8AQ
UM1NU	UM1N	UM8UN	UM8NC
UM8NU	UM93UN	UM93NU	UN7BY
UP2BDN	UP2BND	V85ZA	V85ZM
V85RM	VU2AK	VU2GUY	VU2YL
VU40GUY	WP4AFA	WP4CLV	XE3ABC
XQ3D	XQ3DPD	XT2BR	XT2BS
XT2SA	XU2NU	XU3NU	XU4NU
XU5DX	XU5SE	XU0NU	YJ8NAC
3A100GM	3A2LF	3A2LF/0S0C	3A2LF/0S0C
3A200SM	3A8A	3A9F	3A9A
3A0CW	3B8FL	3B8FR	3B9FR
3X1NU	3X4/TU2QU	3X0HNU	3X0HBG
3X0HNU/P	3X0NU	3X0HBG/9J	3X/TU2QU
4S7AA	4S7PVR	4S0AA	5B4LP
5N8GW	5R8DG	5R8/F6BQY	5R8GW
5R8AB	5R8DS	5R8DY	5R8JD
5R0A	5R/F6BQY	5T23RY	5T5JM
5T5NU	5T5RG	5T5CS	5T5DA
5T5PP	5T5RY	5T5BU	5T5JC
5T5REF	5T5CJ	5T6E	5T0REF
5U7NU	5U/F5OZS	5V7AW	5V7TM
5V0A	6K24SO	6K88SO	6V1A
6V6A	6V6JX	6W1KI	6W2KR
6W2IX	6W2EX	6W4/TL8TM	6W6FA
6W6JX/C56	6W6JX	6W8JX	6X0A
7X2RO	7X2NU	7X2SX	7X90A
7X90A	7X0NU	7X0A	9J2AE
9M8RM	9Q5NU	9X5BG	9X5BQ
9X5KM	9X5NU	9X5WW	

The next list is of calls which have been described in various DX bulletins as F6FNU as manager. Antoine says he is NOT THE MANAGER!

CN2EL	CN8IJ	CN8LQ	CN8CU
CX5BO	CX6CP	D44TC	D68SF
F2CW/C56	F6EYS/FM4	FG5GL	FG0/FD1OMP
FK6FB	FK8FK	FK8CP	FK8FS
FK8KAA	FM4EC/G	FM4/F6EYS	FM5EW
FM7DP	FO5OU	FR4FN/J	FR4FAx
FR4EC	FR5FG	FR5HB	FR7GL
FR7FA/J	FR8DG	FR8GW	FR8JD
FR8MD	FR0/G/FH4ED	FT5NU	FT5ZA
FT8TD	FT9WA	HI3JU	HI3YH
HT5JC	HT6E	J27P	J28FG
J28FQ	J28FU	J28BR	J28FD
J20X	JW6JX	J/FR/FR5ES	LX2XQ
OX3NAF	OX3KMC	OX5KM	P40SB
R4FA/J	S01DX	S0DX	SU7NU
SV7/UA4W1IX	T26NU	TH1MR	TJ2MR
TJ7MR	TK4AC	TK5FL	TL8DN
TL8AT	TL8SA	TL8BM	TNIAD
TT5SA	TT7A	TT8A	TU1MR
TU2KA	TU2J	TU40A	TV7E
TV9OA	TV0LER	TZ86/TU2LN	UW4CW
VK8FI	WM8NU	WU5SE	XB2BS
XT2TT	XU1NU	XU5S	YJ7J
YK1CV	ZB2M	ZK2NQ	3A2AF
3B8AC	3B9UF	3B9ER	3B9BR
3B9GR	3V1NU	3X3AN	3X0HU
3X0SNU	3X0HNW	3X0HNV	4S7PUR
4S7PV	4S7PVI	4X0HNU	5H1TTY
5H3NU-CW	5H3JH	5H3NU	5R8GM
5T5UN	5T5LU	5U5NU	5U7FF
5X5DX	5Y5JC	6W6JX/C65	7O1SB
7X2EA	7X2SK	8R8T	9G1NU
9G3CC	9G3NU		

73 de Eric G0CGL.

OLD QSL ROUTES PSEI

Roger Western, G3SXW

I am trying to help a Norwegian friend in his hunt for some rather ancient and rare QSL cards. Any suggestions will be gratefully received:

VQ9A Aldabra 2/6/62
 VP9AR Aldabra 15/2/67
 VQ6AH Br. Somaliland 30/11/48
 ZC5AL Br. North Borneo 18/4/58
 VS4ER Sarawak 18/11/59
 CN2TE Tangier 27/1/57
 PK4LB Sumatra 17/4/59
 PK4LB Sumatra 14/2/65
 9U5BB Ruanda-Urundi 2/5/67

Now there's a challenge for the archivists in

the club! Johnny/LA5IIA would be very grateful for any tips for his Club station LA1K. These are the results of his labour of love going through 190 log-books!

Please let me have any details to pass on to Johnny: Roger Western G3SXW 7 Field Close Chessington Surrey, KT9 2QD or e-mail on: 100260.342@compuserve.com, or directly to Johnny/LA5IIA at: PO Box 5626 N-7002 Trondheim, Norway or e-mail to: johnnyj@stud.untl.no

Thanks for trying. 73 de Roger/G3SXW".

DXPEDITION TO STH COOK

UK PacketCluster Network

Hello Fellow DXers, be sure to leave a few antennas up this summer to work us from ZK1, South Cook Islands. We'll be on during the IARU HF Championship and on the air outside the contest period as well. Look for us July 11-21st. Please QSL to AA8U with SASE, or via. the Bureau.

There is a really nifty web site that is worth the time to check it out. Lots of neat pictures and information about the North and South Cook Islands. If you would like to see where we will be operating from, look into it: <http://www.ck/raro.htm>

We have been working real hard to make sure we have decent antennas and equipment for the trip. Please try to work us on all HF bands CW & SSB.

I am planning a return trip to the Cooks, the next time to RF deprived North Cook Islands! This will take place in November of '98. By then we hope to have more co-operation from the propagation gods.

73, Bruce, aa8u@voyager.net

AA8U	ZK1AAU
K8MJZ	ZK1MJZ
AG8W	ZK1AGW
KA8KZJ	

(Tks G0CGL)

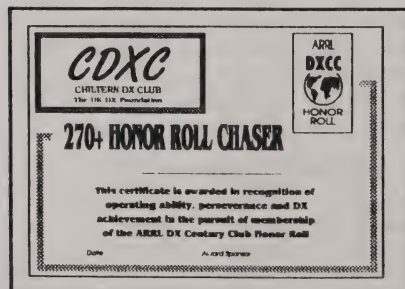
HONOR ROLL CHASER'S TABLE

Rules for entry to the Honor Roll Chaser's table were given in the May NewsLetter. All numbers in the table are for *confirmed* DXCC countries. Positions in the table are based on *current mixed* score (confirmed). The table will be published again in the November NewsLetter. *Please note that those who last updated in November 1995 who wish to stay in the next table should let the editor have an update, even if it is no change.* Those who have not updated since July 1995 have been dropped from the table.

There are 329 current DXCC countries, following the addition of BV9 (Pratas) and BS7H (Scarborough Reef) on 1st April 1996, making a total of 329 current DXCC countries. The qualifying number for Honor Roll is therefore 320.

CALL	UPDATED	CW *		SSB		MIXED	
		Current	Total	Current	Total	Current	Total
G3NOF	JUL-96			326	364	326	364
G3KTT	JUL-96	324	331	324	332	327	335
G8LX	JUL-96	301		318		321	366
G4NXGM	JUL-96			314	318	320	326
G4YRR	NOV-95	222	222	318	323	318	323
GM4UZY	MAR-96			318	323	318	323
G3RZP	JUL-96					317	322
G0WAZ	JUL-96	87	87	307	314	317	321
G4CJY	MAR-96					317	321
G4OBK	NOV-95	297	301	294	298	317	321
G3LHJ	MAR-96	290	295			313	340
G3NKC	JUL-96	284	288	271	275	312	316
G0LRJ	JUL-96			311	315	311	315
GM4XLU	JUL-96			310	316	310	316
G4AZN	MAR-96	269	275	298	306	309	318
G0KIK	JUL-96			309	313	309	313
GW3JXN	JUL-96	236	239	232	237	297	300
G3NOH	JUL-96	296	300			296	300
G3SWH	NOV-95	295	299			295	299
G3XMZ	NOV-95					291	
G3KWK	JUL-96					286	302
G3PMR	JUL-96	271	275	233	237	286	290
G3DPX	JUL-96	273				273	
GM0EGJ	MAR-96			267	261	267	261

*Note that CW contacts dated prior to January 1st 1975 count only for mixed mode credit, and not for CW credit. Congratulations to Colin, G3DPX, a new certificate winner.



This is a reproduction of the Honor Roll Chaser certificate sponsored by G4DYO. The certificate, which is A4-size and printed multi-coloured on heavy paper, is available to CDXC members, both at home and abroad, who are not yet on Honor Roll who have worked 270 or more countries on the DXCC Current Countries List.

Details of how to qualify for one of these fine certificates were published in the May 1996 NewsLetter.

THE OPENING AND THE CLOSING OF THE DOOR TO MYANMAR.

UK PacketCluster Network

A personal account of the history leading to the recent events in Yangon, Myanmar, written by G3NOM and JA1UT

November 1989:

XW8KPL, the first amateur radio station in the Laos People's Democratic Republic, was being set up in Vientiane. The Laos officials told JA1UT of a high ranking Myanmar military officer who was interested in amateur radio. His name was Lt. Col. Than Tut, Director General of the Information & Broadcasting Department, Ministry of Communication, Myanmar.

January 1990

Yoshi JA1UT visited Yangon alone, and had a very friendly, and successful meeting with Lt. Col. Than Tut. They discussed the possibility of opening amateur radio. Later, Lt. Col. Than Tut was promoted to Commander General of the Myanmar Signal Regiment (Taung Gyi) and his former position was filled by Lt. Col. Kyi Lwin.

May 1990

Yoshi (JA1UT) and Jiro (JA3UB) visited Yangon, taking with them a FT757 transceiver. They gave a demonstration of amateur radio in the presence of Director General Kyi Lwin. Jiro donated the transceiver to the authority.

November 1990

JA1UT, JA1UPA (Sekko), JA1CMS (Abe), and JA1FUY (Kawai) travelled to Yangon for further negotiation. Kawai-san donated one computer to Radio Burma, at their request. Lt. Col. Kyi Lwin proposed to raise the question of the resumption of amateur

radio at a cabinet meeting.

August 1991

The XY0RR operation by Romeo Stapanenko, suddenly appeared. DXAC gave DXCC credit to this operation. Meanwhile, in response to a query, the Myanmar Central Government sent a telex to JA1UT stating they had not granted any such licences or permissions for amateur radio operation to foreigners.

10th September 1992

In early September, Ken JA8CDG visited the Shan State, in North East Myanmar, (an area that Romeo is reputed to have operated from). On the 10th September 1992 he was issued with an amateur radio permit (document available) signed by H.E. Khun Sa (then Acting President of the Shan State Restoration Council). However, due to business pressures he was unable to take up the chance to operate.

15th-21st September 1992

Toshi JA8RUZ, and Hiro JA8GYQ operated XY0Q, and XY0Z, from Manerplaw, (same area as Romeo, is reputed to have operated from). They made 4000 QSOs, using CW, SSB, and RTTY, on the HF Bands. The licence was issued by the "National Coalition Government of the Union of Myanmar", signed by the Minister of Information. However DXAC rejected the request for DXCC credit on the grounds that the licence was not issued by the central government. (This seemed to beg the question - how did Romeo overcome this obstacle?)

They suffered quite difficult physical conditions during the expedition. Later, Toshi found that he had contracted Malaria, and was hospitalised on several occasions in Japan, and received intensive medical treatment for several months.

September 1994: 9M2BZ (Sin) who was

conducting business in Myanmar, relayed a message to JA1UT that the Myanmar Government had enquired about the idea of linking an amateur radio operation to the proposed "Visit Myanmar Year 1996"

In response to Sin's information, G3NOM (Ray), JA1UT (Yoshi) and JR0CGJ (Shimuzu), contacted H.E. Lt. Col. Kyi Lwin, and visited the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism Service (MHTS) in Yangon. The call sign XY1HT (Hotels and Tourism) was officially allocated, and the permission was documented. A demonstration of SSB, CW and SSTV took place in the radio station of the Ministry building. This operation is thought to have been the first legalised resumption of amateur radio since the foundation of the Union of Myanmar. This demonstration was given credit by DXAC. Seventeen QSOs were made, four of which were SSTV.

JA1UT made a report of the demonstration to H.E. Lt. Col. Kyi Lwin recommending further amateur radio activity. This was met with approval.

October 1994

At the IARU Region 3 Conference, Singapore, some delegates expressed concern about "uncoordinated" development of amateur radio activities in Myanmar. It emerged that apart from G3NOM/JA1UT, and IARU, JA1BK/OH2BH were pursuing amateur radio activities there.

January 1995

Whilst transiting Bangkok, on the way to Myanmar OH2BH discussed with G3NOM the possibility that the XY1HT project, may conflict with the interests of IARU or the JA1BK/OH2BH initiative. It was concluded that neither the JA1BK/OH2BH project nor the IARU activities would be jeopardised by the XY1HT project because completely different ministries and contacts were involved.

July/August 1995

G3NOM, JA1UT, and JA8CDG made a second demonstration, this time, to a larger number of high ranking officials. During the one-day XY1HT operation 300 QSOs were made, mainly on SSB, CW and RTTY. However it was observed that Amateur Slow Scan TV drew a keen interest from the officials. It is believed this was an important factor which convinced the officials to invite a proposal for larger operations linked to Visit Myanmar Year 1996.

Before leaving Yangon, a proposal was submitted for four five day operations to be carried out by teams of international operators, starting September 1995, continuing through 1996. The offer was included to provide training and equipment for Myanmar personnel. Approval was awaited.

Later in the month, at the Tokyo Ham Fair, G3NOM, met JA1UT, JA1BK and OH2BH. Myanmar was discussed. Congratulations were warmly received from Martti and Kan. From their side, the story was, "well not too much success in Myanmar, but we're busy with P5 anyway". It was obvious from the conversation that the theme of the XY1HT operation - Visit Myanmar Year - Ministry of Hotels and Tourism had been well revealed by the two demonstrations and the QSL card.

28th September 1995

Suddenly, JA1BK, OH2BH, and OH0XX made a demonstration operation from Yangon, using the call sign XZ1X. About 1000 QSOs were made on SSB and CW. Phone calls to Yangon revealed that they were operating from the same location as XY1HT, in the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Our contacts in Yangon were confused, thinking it was the same amateur group as XY1HT.

The authorities in Yangon, immediately, sent

a fax to JA1UT, formally agreeing to the previously submitted XY1HT proposed operations, and inviting the team to Yangon as soon as possible.

October 1995

The two groups staged large operations in Yangon:

October 19 - 30th: XY1HT by G3NOM, JA1UT, JA1UPA, JO3XEQ, JO3XER, JA8CDG, JA8RUZ, JS1QHO, LA7JO, and 9M2BZ. Ten thousand QSOs were made from the MHTS building, using 9 bands, on modes AO10B, AO13B Satellite, CW, FM, RTTY, SSB, SSTV.

October 23 - 30th: XZ1A led by JA1BK and OH2BH, with OH0XX, K5FUV, and N7NG. The expedition was sponsored by Nokia Mobile Phones, and Yaesu Co. Ltd.. Fifteen thousand QSOs (CW/SSB) were made from the Summit Park Hotel (A luxury hotel, on the outskirts of Yangon)

24th October 1995: During the morning, G3NOM was summoned from the operating room of XY1HT in the MHTS, to a meeting room in the same building. There, to his surprise, was assembled the complete team of XZ1A. It was a breathtaking scene to see an array of such famous DXers. It was also rather bewildering to find the whole assembly in conference with the same officials that were dealing with the XY1HT operation, since we had been told that the JA1BK/OH2BH group was dealing with the Ministry of Communications. Therefore, the meeting started off with a rather tense atmosphere.

Ray was told by the Myanmar officials that "our" Minister had requested the XZ1A group to seek agreement with the XY1HT group on frequency sharing!

Once it was established that XZ1A would operate at a different location, it was easy to agree to this request. Also, it became

apparent from the XZ1A frequency schedule (handed to G3NOM by OH2BH) that XZ1A was only authorised for specific frequencies in the 7, 14 and 21 MHz bands. On the other hand the XY1HT schedule was authorised for all bands, including WARC, with no limitations on frequency or mode.

Although the XY1HT operation had been pre-authorised for CW, on arrival the officials had made a request not to use that mode. This request was of course, complied with. However, on arrival (23rd October 1995), and prior to this meeting, XZ1A had already used CW, which presented a "fait accompli" to the officials. The result, fortunately, was a lifting of the temporary restriction placed on XY1HT.

Both groups were then able to work in harmony to serve the amateur DX population, and to edify the Myanmar participants.

April 1996

It was the plan for the XY1HT group to make similar demonstrations in Pagan, and Mandalay, using the call- signs XY2HT, and XY3HT, and negotiations are still open, however.....

As seen in the DX columns, the XZ1A operation has been followed up by several DX groups (Finnish, American, and Japanese) at a fast pace and on a large scale.

A serious set-back has occurred in the cancellation of the XZ1N (Central Arizona DX Association), and XZ1R (Finnish Group) operations.

It has been reported from Yangon that inspectors, from the Ministry of Communications visited the Summit Park Hotel, where antennas, and equipment, (thought to have been installed initially by the JA1BK/OH2BH group) were found and confiscated.

The matter was escalated, and a high level edict has now banned the operation of amateur radio in Myanmar for the foreseeable future.

The concern of the authors, who have been intimately involved with the long slow process of the opening of Myanmar, is that the recent rapidly escalating onslaught of large expeditions, has been too much too soon. It may not have been the most appropriate style for this part of the world. Let's hope the situation can be retrieved in due course.

Ray G3NOM/Yoshi JA1UT

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G0CGL)

POLAR BEAR EXPRESS DXPEDITION!

UK PacketCluster Network

In the early part of August, 1996, a team of eight Amateurs will be heading for Moose, Ontario located at the south end of James Bay, which is at the southern end of Hudson Bay.

We will be travelling on the Polar Bear Express train from Citroen, ON to Moose. The train is the only land transportation to Moose as there are no roads that go up that far. Northland Ontario Railway has donated a train car for us to set up a station for the 4.5 hour trip up and back and Durham Radio and Alinco have donated the necessary equipment. As well, we will be in Moose for several days and will be operating from the train station. Northland Ontario will be using this as a promotional feature for the week we are up there and we will be promoting our hobby to all who want to participate.

Several members of our group are IOTA buffs and will be hopping around to different islands to activate VE8 islands as well as

some VE3 islands. Since Moose is on a river that drains into James Bay any island in freshwater will be Canadian VE3 islands (belonging to the province of Ontario) and the islands in the open saltwater will be Canadian and IOTA VE8 islands (belonging to the Northwest Territories).

Goals

- Advancement of Amateur Radio
- Promotion of each of our sponsors
- Involvement of passengers on trip
- Educating amateurs about Canada, the north in particular
- For our enjoyment (yes, we will try to have fun!)

Special Call Signs - YES! but unknown at this time. Hope to have special VE3 and VE8 callsigns since we will be in both Ontario and the Northwest Territories.

Sponsors

- Durham Radio
- Alinco
- Northland Ontario Railway

Languages Spoken - English, Italian, Spanish

Special QSL Cards - we will have a special QSL card made up once everything is finalised and we will QSL 100% as long as the needed info is received.

Durham Radio has set up a special section on their web page to keep you up to date on our project plans. You can visit it at "<http://www.durhamradio.ca>" and look for the Polar Bear Express DXpedition link on the main page. You can also send mail to myself via the following methods:

Packet - ve3lks@va3bbs

Internet - Isolomon@osha.igs.net

I will be updating this information as we solidify our plans to keep you abreast as to what is happening. Look for frequencies, exact dates, team member list, etc. in upcoming releases.

ACCEPTABLE PACKETCLUSTER TRAFFIC

UK PacketCluster Network

Ed, this message was posted by Neil, G4DBN for users of GB7YDX. However, I believe it is also useful as a general guide.

Following several recent cases of mail and TALKs which fall below the standards which I would like to see being followed on YDX, I think it's useful for me to let everyone know what is and is not acceptable in mail, talks and spots on GB7YDX, which is after all, just a Notice of Variation on my existing G4DBN licence. I have to satisfy myself to the best of my ability that the traffic being carried by this station follow the radio regulations and of course the Law.

This message is from me personally as sysop of GB7YDX, not from the Support Group. YDX is here to provide a service for hams in this area to enhance their enjoyment of hobby radio. Period.

It is not a place to do business, sell or buy things, have fights, abuse or insult others, use indecent or obscene language.

Messages on here should in the main be related to DXing, but messages about computers, radios, TNCs, antennas and the hardware and software tools which hams use are of course perfectly acceptable.

Defamatory statements have no place on here, and I would prefer it if folks would refrain from spotting DX stations and then saying "steals dollars, never QSLs".

The standards I expect in public bulletins are considerably higher than personal messages, but I will take an extremely dim view of personal messages which contain any abuse, insult, defamation or ill-will towards someone.

If you have a desperate need to slag

someone off, then get on the telephone, email or snail-mail and do it that way please.

I don't expect to find any obscene words in the traffic that goes through here, and I expect everyone to assume that what they type is going to be seen by young 2E1s and their parents.

If you think that the traffic you are about to send would cause disquiet to those parents and make them think twice about allowing that 2E1 on packet, then use the delete key.

As for selling and advertising, the rule is very simple indeed. I don't want to see any messages to your customers telling them their order has arrived, nor telling anyone the price of goods. (Ed: Nor messages asking for support by vendors)

I don't want to see any messages saying "For Sale" or "Wanted".

I don't expect you to tell someone that you have a radio for sale and it's an FT7890 and you want 27 quid for it.

If you want to sell something to someone, ask them for their phone number and call them.

If you want an item of kit, then by all means put out a bulletin asking for information on where to obtain that item. If someone has one for sale, then they can phone you.

It is unacceptable to say "SB200 wanted, cash waiting", but I am happy to see "Info wanted on possible sources of SB200s", giving a phone number or email for contact.

Items for sale are not acceptable at all, period. The RA have made it very clear that all advertising is totally prohibited on ham radio.

OK, so that's what I don't want to see.

I have a very flexible approach to spotting of

DX, if you think someone else might be interested in the spot then go ahead and spot it.

If you don't know if something is or isn't interesting, then maybe you need to ask someone with a bit more experience (this is self-training, and what better way to learn than asking a more experienced person).

I might get very bored if you spot every station that calls into a DX net, one spot with a comment containing the other stations on would do fine.

I might get bored with the 24th spot of CY0AA saying "worked on 10123.567", or of the 10th IK0 in a certain square, or of a string of W1s on 20m.

It might be that there is a contest on which means those spots are useful though, so circumstances alter cases.

Excessive spotting can indeed swamp the good stuff, so don't feel you have to spot a W1 and say "Sri can't find anything better" or "6m dead in IO93" just to keep your callsign on the screen.

The lack of a spot tells everyone that there ain't anything there! I am quite happy if you just tell your mates about a DX station and wait for them to work it before you spot it, some other sysops might not like this practice though, especially if they need the station...

It is my responsibility as a service provider to ensure that we have enough capacity to carry all the legitimate traffic that is generated, and it should not be up to me to tell you what to spot and what not to. If someone starts abusing the DX spot facility with what I consider to be pointless stuff, then I will intervene, but it is very rare indeed that I have to do this, so spot whatever you think will interest other users.

If someone sends you a message, rude or

otherwise, saying that what you are spotting is no good, then don't rise to the bait, be polite and ask why, then drop me a line if you can't get any sense out of them. Never ever start an argument with someone over this, ignore them if necessary! As the sysop, I have a number of management tools that allow me to control what users can and cannot do.

I very rarely have to use them and I don't lock anyone out unless they are a pirate or are passing obscene or otherwise unacceptable traffic.

I check all bulletins to ensure they are OK, and I also check a sample of personal mail from time to time. Notice I say Personal and not Private, there is no such thing as privacy in ham radio.

There is also no such thing as Free Speech or the Right to be Heard, this is a ham radio PacketCluster and as such it is NOT a democracy. I try to be the most reasonable of despots though! I will say it again, YDX is here solely to enhance the fun of ham radio, it's damned hard work at times for the committee and myself, but we do it because it is enjoyable.

If I stop enjoying it then I will stop doing it and we'll need a new sysop. I'm still enjoying it. Let's keep it that way by keeping the content of messages within the boundaries I've laid down.

Neil G4DBN sysop GB7YDX

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

David, AA6DC, who was recently here and was active as/from A61AF, A61AN and A61AH QTHs, may return in 3 or 4 months with a CW keyer to please many CW operators.

CHINA TOUR 1996

Mike Parker, G4IUF

This was our first all inclusive tour; always, in the past, we've done our own thing. However, the tour seemed to be the only practicable way to see the country. We coached from Harrogate to Heathrow, then boarded a very spacious Air China 747, with four less rows and one less seat in the row than usual. The extra leg room seemed real luxury. We arrived in Beijing around mid-day the following day, unpacked, ate, and retired for an early night.

One thing about tours is that they always make sure you are fully occupied - the next day we were up at 7.00am, and on the way to Tian An Men Square by 9.00am. From there we proceeded to the Forbidden City - it was fascinating to see what had been the subject of so many documentaries and feature films in reality, and was very easy to imagine the splendour of the Imperial Court of the past. From the Forbidden City, we went to the Temple of Heaven - had I known it, I was only a quarter of a mile from BYIPK at this point! The last event of the day was the Peking Opera, which we used to enjoy looking at many years previously, in Singapore, on festival days.

The following day we were up at 7.00am again, and were off to a Cloisonne factory near Beijing. The skill and intricacy involved in making the ornaments was quite incredible, and required many years of training to reach the standard of perfection of the items produced, and then exported all over the world. Our next stop was the stuated Sacred Way to the Ming Dynasty Tombs, and the museum housing the excavated contents of the tombs, containing many splendid items of jewellery etc. The Great Wall was next on the agenda, every bit as impressive as it looks in photos and on TV - what these don't really show though are the nearly vertical sections, one of which we climbed up, and arrived, somewhat

exhausted, at a corner fort. Some sections of the wall are restored, and some have remained intact over the years, but some sections have virtually disintegrated, and in some areas the stones have been used for other purposes such as housing, so the quality varies over the length of the wall. From the Great Wall, we went back to Beijing for a Peking Duck banquet.

The next day we took a train trip to Chengde, in "soft class". The countryside seemed to be one huge farm, except where the ground was too steep to support any crops, and, even here, there was terracing in some parts. On arrival at Chengde, we noticed some steam engines in use, and this provided some later fun. The first visit was to the Emperor's Summer Resort. It was colder here, and the lake was completely frozen, with bridges and a walk across it, and some Mongolian Yurt tents at the edge for visiting tribesmen. Unfortunately, after this visit, I was out of action for two days with food poisoning, so Sandy was on her own (with the group). The following day the trip was to the Buddhist temple, with a 22 ft high wooden standing Buddha, and also a copy of the Tibetan lamasery. The whole temple complex was very grand, and there were great views from the top of the temples. From there she went on a visit to a farm commune, houses, and school to see how people lived. Very simply, but with food and schooling. Some of the party then visited the train station, and Sandy got some great video of the steam engines. In the evening we were back together for a show put on by the school children, which was very good.

Now recovered, but somewhat more careful when eating, we travelled to Xi'an by plane. Xi'an lies south and a little west of Beijing, about 500 miles away, and was noticeably warmer (and dustier). One other thing that struck us were the neon lights, of which there are few in Beijing, and the greater bustle in the streets. The main feature here

was the Emperor Qing Shihuang's Terracotta Army and Horses, which had lain undiscovered for 2,200 years until 1974. The excavation was a magnificent sight, and it was incredible to see these superbly made figures which has been crafted 200 years before the birth of Christ. The detail and lifelike quality were quite remarkable. Each statue is different in features and stance. The tomb was vandalised and burnt soon after the Emperor's death, and then abandoned. They additional firing may have helped to preserve the statues which were undamaged. There are three vaults; #1 and #3 are open, #2 is still being excavated. The Emperor's actual tomb has not been excavated as yet, due to various problems, not least of which being that rivers of mercury were part of the tomb design. The whole burial complex is as big as the city. In Xi'an itself we visited the Little Goose Pagoda, the City Wall, and Jade Factory, as well as taking in a show, "The Tang Dynasty", a costume and dance spectacular.

Arriving back in Beijing, I phoned the Chinese Radio Sports Association, and arranged to visit that afternoon. In the morning, we went to the Summer Palace, with many sights, including a marble boat, and covered walkway decorated with brilliant paintings. After lunch, Sandy went shopping, and I went to BY1PK - the CRSA HQ station, which is located in the southeast of the city, just south of the Temple of Heaven. On arrival, I met Wang Xinmin, Deputy director, and Miss Cao Huicong, who had issued my operator's permit. We talked for a while, and then I worked many Europeans, on 20m SSB using the TS940S and 11 element beam. Apparently my signal was reasonably loud, and I had the pleasure of talking to G4STT, who lives a quarter mile from my home, as well as many other G stations. At just after 6pm local, Mr. Wang suggested it would be a good time to QRT, as they suffer from TV breakthrough, and have had problems with irate residents coming into the station and pulling the

microphone out - I guess things are the same all over the world! I agreed that this would not be good, and arranged to visit again the following day.

Next morning we visited the Fragrant Hills which was the area the Emperor visited in the spring when all the blooms were out. It's a large park/garden with many ornamental features, and a Walls ice Cream stand which was unfortunately closed! At Beijing Zoo we saw the pandas, a couple of which were not asleep and moved around for us. After this, I went back to BY1PK. This time, the Director Cheng ping, was there, and we spoke about N. Korea for a while. I took some video, and then worked the deserving using a straight key (apologies for the poor CW) for an hour before reverting to SSB, again on 20m. conditions were again good into Europe, and I made many QSOs before reluctantly going QRT for the last time as BY1PK. Despite listening carefully, there was no propagation to Europe on 30m or 40m on either day. After some further talk with Mr. Cheng and some of the other CRSA members, I paid my respects and headed the 14 mile back to the hotel. The taxi driving is not for the nervous, but can be exhilarating. That evening, our last show was a troupe of acrobats, who were very agile and entertaining. The next day we were heading home, with many souvenirs of a memorable trip. Apologies to those who didn't work me, but my indisposition early on, and the tight schedule precluded any other operating. Listen for Tony, OK1DOR. He is at the Czech Embassy in Beijing, and shows up some Eu mornings on either 20m or 27m from BY1PK or BY1BJ.

HK0, MALPELO ISLAND

It is reported that Bert, HK5JPS, said at Dayton's HamVention that a group of HKs are planning an operation next February.

HAMMING IN STYLE ABOARD QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 PHIL WEAVER G4JMB, VS6CT

This story concerns my winter of 95/96 aboard the Queen Elizabeth 2, when for four months I enjoyed the luxury of living in an environment of a five star Hotel with the privilege of operating Amateur Radio from the ship's radio room.

Embarkation took place from Southampton on the 15 December, and after settling in, I went to make my number with the ship's Radio Officer. At this time the normal Chief Radio Officer Jim Barlow G3VOU, was on leave and the relief officer, Eric Bainger was not an amateur. Jim had however, organised with Kenwood (UK) for the supply of a TS50 complete with Power Supply and Antenna Tuner to be installed and it was already for use when I checked in.

I operated nearly every day for about two hours at a time, this was mainly because I was using my lap top, with TurboLog for logging and printing QSLs. Most contacts were made on twenty meters, whilst on the American coast, seventy five meters was used quite a bit. During the four months I was aboard operating, I made over 1350 QSOs and worked into 122 countries.

Apart from operating ham radio I was actively involved in many other aspects of what the QE2 had to offer. One of the greatest highlights of this voyage has to be my catching of an 8'7", 140 lb. Sail fish in Acapulco. I decided to try purely on impulse, just before going back to the ship after buying a few post cards and speaking to my Mother on the telephone. The day's fishing actually took very little time as we hooked into the fish only 7 minutes after putting out the lures, however it took a further hour with me in the fighting chair to land the fish. Great experience. Still have not received the photos taken at the time by one of the Cunard Deck Cadets who was

working near by.

This was after the Christmas Cruise when we had a ten day tour of the Caribbean. The ship was very full but it was a much younger crowd than we normally have on the world cruise. That being said it has surprised me how many people have joined at different ports for various sectors of any where from 5 days and up, of the world cruise. I had a friend, Dick McKay K6VGP, join me from Ensenada to Hawaii and he enjoyed it so much he intended joining from Fort Lauderdale to Southampton, but had to cancel at the last moment due to a family member becoming terminally ill.

Had a great day out in Maui, my friend, Dick, K6VGP, operating onboard as G0WLO/MM, hired a car for the day as it was one of his old stamping grounds when he was flying out of the Islands with United. And he showed me the whole Island including a wonderful fish lunch at a very famous restaurant, called "Mama's Fish House".

It was very cold in Japan, where we visited Yokohama and Osaka, but fortunately there is a wonderful world standard Aquarium, right there on the wharf at Osaka, which most of the ship must have visited. In Hong Kong we had the World Cruise Society's Annual Ball at the Regent Hotel, probably one of the best hotels in the world. I also managed to arrange a private dinner in the Captain's dining room, adjacent to the Mauritania restaurant, for 40 guests whilst in Hong Kong, this was for members and their friends of the English Language Amateur Radio Communications Society (ELARCS) the amateur club which I set up in Hong Kong mainly for the expatriate community, in 1987.

In Manila this year they ran courtesy buses to and from the Harrison Plaza, probably one of the better malls in Manila, this enabled everyone to do their shopping in a very good

environment at best prices. Ambon, in Indonesia, was a first for the QE2, but prices were ridiculous, and very little was bought there, every one knew how good Bali was going to be. After Ambon we went down the Barrier reef and had a wonderful day's excursion on a high speed Catamaran which picked up 350 passengers from the ship in the morning and took them to a diving reef on the outer edge of the Great Barrier reef where there was a special pontoon with diving platforms and under-water observatory. We had a wonderful lunch out there on the pontoon, and as it was a "wet" charter there was free booze all day long. By the time we had returned to the ship at 1800 hours we had drunk every bottle of wine they had on the boat.

We spent a day in Brisbane, and whilst en-route for Sydney we had a very bad gale for a day which delayed the ship's arrival into Sydney by 12 hours, most upsetting for the crew as it meant they missed an over-night in port. During the gale we shipped heavy seas right over the ship at one time and water got into the Kenwood ATU located on the upper deck directly below the antenna. This became unserviceable, and I had to buy a replacement in Sydney. Luckily for us, I had a friend in Sydney Marc Robinson VK2BUA, who is in the HF Radio business and he was able to let me have an SGC ATU for £400, and threw in a twenty foot whip antenna which was surplus to his requirements. This was subsequently installed and used instead of the long wire we had previously been using.



Dick McKay, K6VGP/G0WLO and Phil Weaver, G4JMB/VS6CT hamming in style aboard QE2

I subsequently stayed on in Sydney with Marc, for two nights to celebrate and enjoy the Chinese New Year festivities, and flew to Adelaide where I rejoined the ship. In Adelaide I met up with friends I had not seen for many years and I had great fun showing them around the ship. I have in fact been doing this at many ports, which has meant that I have not been able to go ashore myself in many cases, however this has not mattered as the majority of the ports we have visited I have been to in years past when on my travels as a Mariner. I reckon that by the time we finished the world cruise I will have shown around 50 guests plus the dinner party group I had on board in Hong Kong, so it has been a very busy cruise for me.

At all the ports in Australia we had rousing send-offs with hundreds of people on the wharves to cheer as we sailed away. This also happened in Durban and Cape Town. It seems that in places where there are ties with England it has become some thing that is done.

After Australia it was on to Bali, where I had a most delightful day starting with a white water rafting experience in a two man kayak down a class four stretch of water. I am hoping to organise that again next year when we shall again be visiting Bali. I met a lot of nice people in Bali, had my hair cut on the beach for \$2, and a massage for \$20.

At Bangkok, I stayed in Pattaya over night to meet with friends from Bangkok, as having now sold the apartment in Hong Kong, I am hoping to relocate to Bangkok in June this year. We had a great dinner party for ten people to celebrate my successful sale of the Hong Kong apartment enabling me to live to a much better standard and have money to enable me to travel as and when I want to any where in the world.

After Bangkok, it was on to Singapore, where again I had various friends on board to see around the ship, including David

Rankin 9VIRH. However it was an over night port and the following morning I joined the Cunard tour to visit the Jurong Bird Park. This is a fabulous park dedicated to the birds of the world with hundreds, nay thousands of different birds from all over the world. Spectacular is the only word to describe it. If you ever get to visit Singapore, you should make a point of having a wander around. Our next port was Port Klang, the port for Kuala Lumpur, where yet again I did not go ashore. Instead, I had some old friends, previously living in Hong Kong, who came aboard for lunch. Another very hot day and I was pleased to be able to show someone around rather than struggle with the heat ashore.

In Bombay, I again showed friends around the ship. However being an over night port, I was taken ashore by a group of Radio Amateurs there for a very nice dinner, at the "Copper Chimney", followed in the morning by a tour of the city in a private car. After Bombay on to Mahe in the Seychelles, where I spent the day on the beach near the Beauvallon Hotel, nothing special but a break from the ship. Thence on to Mombassa where again I had friends aboard for the evening meal and lunch and did not leave the ship. I had great fun however in negotiating and buying a very large wooden elephant for my friends, John & Carol Ackley (KP2A) in St. Thomas from whose house I have operated on several occasions in the past as KP2/VS6CT. They had asked me if I could find a suitable animal for their house. It is a magnificent beast about 4' long from tail to tip of trunk and stands nearly three feet high. I bargained for over an hour to bring the price down from the US\$400 asking price, and managed eventually to buy it for \$135, plus three pairs of trousers, two pairs of shorts and a pair of shoes!!

In Durban for the day, I met an old seafaring friend who used to be my Captain on a ship which I sailed on whilst with the Nauru Government back in 1971. He has lived in

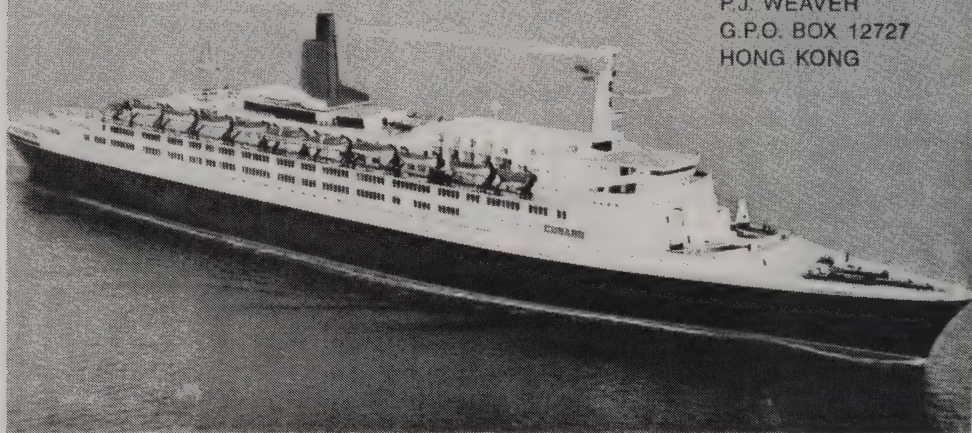
Durban now for several years but deeply regrets the move he made there about ten years ago, as the place is becoming very lawless at night and it is not safe to venture out of one's house, other than in a car after sunset. He has a great apartment on the 21st floor over looking the Harbour and yacht club. It seems idyllic, but the problems of South Africa are horrendous. In Cape Town I managed a quick tour around the City and also to the V & A centre, which is very like the Garibaldi Square in San Francisco, lots of shops and restaurants, a very interesting place to visit and do one's shopping. The problem as usual on the world cruise is knowing what to do with all the bits and pieces one accumulates during a four month

trip.

In Rio de Janeiro, I had a wonderful tour of the city with a chauffeur driven car from one of the Jewellery companies there, and afterwards went to their store and bought a set of studs and a couple of rings for myself. I spent more money than I intended to, but am very pleased with my purchases. In the evening I went on the "Rio by Night" tour and had a reasonable meal, followed by a fabulous floor show in a club with incredible costumes straight out of the carnival. Noisy and loud, as only South America can be, but a fun evening. At Salvador we were only there for 6 hours so I did not even bother to go ashore, just concentrated on improving my sun tan.

G4JMB/MM

P.J. WEAVER
G.P.O. BOX 12727
HONG KONG



The night before we arrived at Barbados we had the last full function of the World Cruise Society, this took place in the Queen's Lounge at 1915 hrs, and was the most

fabulous cocktail party we have ever had. There was caviar, smoked salmon and all sorts of goodies like lobster, Japanese food and fillet steak sandwiches. The Captain

made the usual speech and there was a special farewell for Waldemar Hansen, the World Cruise Port Cruise lecturer, who is retiring at the end of the current voyage, after working for over 30 years as a cruise lecturer.

On to Barbados and St. Thomas. At the former I only went to look around the shops and at the latter delivered the elephant, which was greatly appreciated. I also bought a small Canon Camera and my duty free, the cheapest in the world they reckon. At Barbados we also had the Pirates Party on the Helicopter deck, where there is free booze and dancing for most of the evening with a buffet dinner for all. These deck parties are only held about three times in the four month voyage and only at ports where we do not sail until late in the evening. On the Christmas cruise we had a similar party. So here we are at the end of a fantastic voyage around the world. I would not have missed it for anything and I am very glad that I made a decision to do the trip. I am sure that this cruising will become a part of my life with annual trips to some where or another. The QE2 has several advantages over other ships. The main one for me as a radio amateur, is the Radio Station facility which I am permitted to use. The ship also has a very fine Computer Learning Centre with 11 Epson professional series 486 machines with CD ROM installed. The crew are also very friendly and there is no language problem as every one speaks very good English. This is also the only ship in the world that is able to put so many port visits into a world cruise with its ability to steam at 30 Knots, or more if needed.

Captain Burton-Hall has been as gracious as ever and permitted me to join him on the bridge for various ports of call upon our arrival and departure, plus I was also permitted to be in the bridge for the transit of the Panama Canal which was some thing I really appreciated. Rosemary, his wife, has not been very visible at all during the voyage,

only occasionally coming out to watch a movie or do some shopping. I have spoken with her on a couple of occasions but not been social at all. She did however come out for the final party, as mentioned above.

On average throughout the voyage I have been to one party a week, such as the Ward Room cocktails, plus the Doctor, Andrew Eardley, (G3UXO) who has kindly included me in his cocktail parties as a result of our friendship through amateur radio. Apart from that I have not been all that social, I usually go to the Key Club every couple of days for a coffee, or soft drink, and to read the magazines they have up there, and also into the "Deck 1" writing room. Usually I also go to the aerobics class each morning at 0800, however hard I try I just don't seem to be able to lose any weight, I should, I suppose be thankful that upon landing in Southampton on the 13 April, I was the same weight as when I boarded last December.

One thing I have discovered, only half way through the voyage, is the excellent audio library they have of books. So I bought a small cassette player in Singapore so that whilst sun bathing I can listen to a book, which I also do when I am on the treadmill in the gym down on 7 deck, walking a few miles.

Food as usual has been better than average, however the quality of the smoked salmon this trip is some what inferior to that of last voyage and they do not have it every day at the Mauritania buffet lunch like they did last year. Never the less, for the first half of the voyage the staff made me a very nice smoked salmon salad every day for lunch, after the half way point I decided that variety was better so changed to the menu for lunch each day.

Having a double berthed cabin has been a godsend, as with out it I am sure that it would have been too claustrophobic, I am able to spread my clothes around and feel as though I am in a reasonable sized room, it would worry me if I was in a single, they are so very small. Cunard also permitted me to have a friend join me for various sectors of the voyage. During this cruise I only had two guests with me, Dick

from Ensanada to Hawaii, and Tony Waltham HSO/G4UAV from Bangkok to Port Klang. The cost was only US\$104 per day. I am hoping that I will be able to do the same on next year's trip. Any one interested ?

Finally the World Cruise annual charity fair and other functions, such as the tug of war, collected over \$61,000 for the two orphanages which the ship is sponsoring this voyage, this is a record for the ship and with it they will be able to buy two vans one for each of the nominated establishments this year.

Now to my own future plans, as some of may you know I have purchased an apartment in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, East Malaysia, where I have the call 9M6CT, and will need to furnish and get that ready and also I intend to base myself in Bangkok for the foreseeable future, so I shall be going there on the 18 May. I have just returned from a ten day voyage on the ORIANA from Southampton on the 4th May to Madeira, La Palma, Tenerife, Lanzarote and Vigo in Spain. I am also hoping, time permitting, to travel through the United States again in July and August, if I get the other arrangements all in place. I shall be returning to the UK on the 4th September for three weeks, regretfully I shall be unable to attend this years RSGB Convention, as I have to be back in Hong Kong by the end of September, for a dental appointment, on the 1st October, which I must keep.

The voyage on the ORIANA was most interesting in that the ship is probably one of the most beautiful ships ever built for the British market, beautifully fitted out with magnificent rooms and public spaces. The Theatre is probably one of the best ever put into a ship and is more like a West End theatre rather than aboard a ship. The ship is very high tech, with every latest device possible. There is no radio room on board, as all emergency communications are now handled by the officers on the bridge and all other communications are automatically handled through satellite. Thus there is no radio officer per se, instead they have Electro Technical Officers. Having done the voyage, all of ten days, I shall never go on that one again, the

ship does not appeal to me and the luxury of the QE2 is definitely absent from the ORIANA.

As a result of the great time I have had on the QE2, I am already booked for a two month voyage on her next year with embarkation in Sydney on the 11 February and landing at Southampton on the 11 April.

So you can see I shall be as busy as ever, trying to accomplish too much in too little time. However it seems pretty certain that unless some thing untoward occurs I shall probably make an annual habit of some cruising. There are over 200 cruise ships now operating in the Caribbean, and the choice of which ship and where to go is very extensive, but I think it will take a lot to beat the QE2. However, after seeing all the big and beautiful cruise ships around the Caribbean, I can see that I shall have to sample some of them.

From all of the above you can see that I have really enjoyed it all, and I must admit that this could become addictive, and of course there is activity of all sorts to keep those cruising on the QE2 happy.

So there we are, hope you enjoyed reading this all. If the above raises any questions which I have not covered well enough then please drop me an e-mail at Compuserve 102222,2036 Regards Philip. (Ex VS6CT, now 9M6CT & HSO/G4JMB)

Ed: Phil has now successfully relocated to Bangkok, where he has a three bedroomed apartment on the eighth floor of a ten storey building, with permission to put up ntennas. Phil's new address is:

Phil Weaver, HSO/G4JMB,
8A "PP House",
25/1 Sol St. Louis 2,
South Sathorn Rd.,
Yannawa,
Bangkok 10120
Thailand

Tel/fax +66 2 212 7943
102222.2036@compuserve.com

1995/96 ACCOUNTS

CHILTERN DX CLUB

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 1995-1996

INCOME

	<u>95/96</u>	<u>94/95</u>
SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,090.15	2,211.50
SOFTWARE SALES	70.00	230.00
ADVERTISING	240.00	235.00
MISC SALES	48.00	108.50
RAFFLES	74.00	75.00
LEGACY	0.00	200.00
OTHER DONATIONS IN	65.00	0.00
CDXC DINNER	630.00	0.00
BANK CHARGE REFUND	10.00	0.00

TOTAL INCOME

4,227.15 3,060.00

EXPENDITURE

PRINTING & POST NEWSLETTERS & BADGES	1,789.19	1,699.45
RSGB AFFILIATION	17.00	16.00
COMMITTEE EXPENSES	79.96	107.42
CDXC DINNER	639.00	0.00
BANK CHARGES	10.00	0.00
BADGES & SALE ITEMS	0.00	545.32
GIFTS & TROPHIES	0.00	125.90
DONATIONS		
DXPEDITIONS	600.00	500.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

3,135.15 2,994.09

CASH STATEMENT

CURRENT ACCOUNT

B/F FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENT	873.41	307.50
INCOME	4,227.15	3,060.00
TRANSFER FROM DEPOSIT ACCT	0.00	500.00
TRANSFER TO DEPOSIT ACCT	-1,000.00	0.00
TOTAL	4,100.56	3,867.50
LESS EXPENDITURE	-3,135.15	-2,994.09
BALANCE ON HAND C/F	<u>965.41</u>	<u>873.41</u>

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

OPENING BALANCE	773.75	1,268.70
TRANSFER TO CURRENT ACCT	0.00	-500.00
TRANSFER FROM CURRENT ACCT	1,000.00	0.00
INTEREST EARNED	4.12	5.05
BALANCE ON HAND	<u>1,777.87</u>	<u>773.75</u>

CURRENT ACCOUNT

CURRENT ACCOUNT	965.41	873.41
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	1,777.87	773.75
TOTAL CASH AT BANK	<u>2,743.28</u>	<u>1,647.16</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. Current account retains 55.67 from Banaba Antenna fund.
2. Legacy income is not intended for day to day expenditure.
3. Stock of for sale items written off at cost on purchase.
4. Advance subscriptions fully reflected in books at date of receipt.

THIS FINANCIAL STATEMENT COVERS THE PERIOD 1-6-95 TO 31-3-96 (95/96)
94/95 FIGURES COVER PERIOD 22-4-94 TO 31-5-95, 95/96 PERIOD REDUCED TO
MATCH PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGES YEAR END 31st March.

Financial statement prepared 27-5-1996

J M POTTER G4PFF TREASURER CDXC

SHACKLOG v4.4 & SAM-I

Probably the most complete IOTA Management Package

The SHACKLOG Awards Manager For IOTA (SAM-I) and SHACKLOG v4.4 combine to make what is probably is one of the most complete IOTA management programs yet produced. Operating in conjunction with SHACKLOG's QSO database and the SHACKLOG IOTA database, SAM-I produces its own separate island status database, and offers the following capability:

- Tracking of all IOTA Programme Awards:
 - ⇒ Islands of The World Awards
 - ⇒ Continental Awards
 - ⇒ Regional Awards
 - ⇒ World Diploma
- Bar charts plot your progress towards the awards, showing accepted, claimed but not yet accepted, and waiting to be claimed status
- Automatic claim generation, with all information required for a valid claim *including* island name, and supporting comment
- Edit capability to enable fine tuning of the claim
- Facility for personal notes against each island - not sent to Checkpoint
- Comprehensive Reporting, e.g.:
 - ⇒ Islands accepted by IOTA checkpoint
 - ⇒ Islands rejected by IOTA checkpoint
 - ⇒ Islands claimed but not yet accepted
 - ⇒ Islands confirmed but not yet claimed
 - ⇒ Confirmed islands
 - ⇒ Worked but not confirmed islands
 - ⇒ Worked plus confirmed islands
 - ⇒ Islands not yet worked
- Report by continent or world
- No preferences to set - existing SHACKLOG preferences used
- Supports claims by island activators

SHACKLOG v4.4, operating in conjunction with SAM-I and the IOTA Directory provides in addition:

- Audible alarm when DX spot is received for a needed IOTA reference. (Sends 'IOTA' in CW)
- On line flagging of island status (not worked/worked/confirmed, including callsign of station previously worked)
- Displays island details from directory, including prefix, lat/long, and group details.

SAM-I represents unbelievable value at only £5.00 (that's right - FIVE POUNDS!). N.B. SAM-I is not a stand alone program - it needs SHACKLOG 4.4 and the SHACKLOG IOTA database to run. The complete package of SHACKLOG, the IOTA Database, and SAM-I is only £40.00. *If you are an IOTA buff, you simply can't afford to be without SHACKLOG v4.4 and SAM-I!*

SHACKLOG, SAM-I and the SHACKLOG IOTA Database are available from Alan Jubb, G3PMR, 30 West Street, Great Gransden, Sandy Bedfordshire, SG19 3AU. Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1767 677 913.

Antennas and amplifiers from Vine

Vine is pleased to announce that we will be at the RSGB HF and IOTA convention in October to demonstrate our ETO/Alpha HF Amplifiers. See "Product News" in July RadCom for a colour picture of the ETO 91 β or call us for colour brochures of the 91 β and 87A, and copies of reviews.

We'll also be showing off our new remote antenna switches and other products still in development.

This is the time of year when all those antenna improvement projects need to be done before winter. Why not have a bigger signal on 40m this year - with a tribander on the same boom? The Force 12 C-4SXL and C-4XL give you 2 elements on 40 whilst retaining top performance on 20/15/10. Or what about trying a GemQuad for 20/15/10 with added elements for 17 and 12m, for a low cost route to good performance on WARC as well? For a "big sig" on 20/15/10 KLM tribanders continue to be the testers favourite choice with the TH7 the best of the big trap antennas. For a little antenna with a lot of punch the Force 12 C-3 and C-3S take some beating. Indeed they won first and second places in the IOTA contest 1995.

For both 40 and 80, phased verticals have a lot to offer, without the engineering headaches of the bigger 40m and 80m yagis. We have phasing units for both bands and hope to offer you a low cost, full size, 40m vertical before the winter. For 80m, the Force 12 EF180BV is popular for good performance from a 37ft high package.

We also have our specials - such as the DuneStar Stack Match (G4YSN's pair of 6ele Force 12 20m monobanders fed with a Stack Match is awesome !) and DuneStar bandpass filters.

For PacketCluster links or indeed for EME work we market a wide range of well constructed VHF/UHF yagis from Eagle Antennas, KLM and M2. If you are tired of the HF bands, and tired even of the LF band challenge - try a spot of EME. It's fun, a little like 160 but a bit harder still !

If you aren't sure which antenna or amplifier to choose we can offer our best product - "We love to talk antennas (and amplifiers)" to help you make your choice.

Calls welcome at evenings and weekends !

**Vine Antenna Products (GW3YDX)
The Vine, Llandrinio, Powys SY22 6SH**

Tel - 01691 831111 - Fax 01691 831386

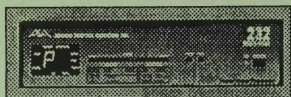
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For Everything In Packet Radio, There Is Only One Make To Choose From



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Phone or fax your order through today.

DSP-2232



The latest all mode DSP driven TNC from AEA. 9600 & 1200 Packet. All standard HF & VHF modes, two switchable radio ports, plus more.

SPECIAL INTRO PRICE:
£479.95

RRP £499.95

PK-232MBX



Probably the best selling Data Controller in the world, the

PK-232MBX is the Radio Modem to choose if you want all-modes, including Morse Code, Baudot, (RTTY), Ascii, Amtor/Sitor 476 & 625, Pactor, HF & VHF Packet, B&W Fax tx/rx, Navtex & Amtex. As with the PK-900, the PK-232MBX now includes "SIAM" and is compatible with the popular TCP/IP networking protocol via KISS mode.

RRP £319.95

PK-12



The very latest replacement for the PK-88,

the tiny PK-12 not only comes with more features, but its cheaper too! The PK-12 is a 1200 baud VHF packet controller ideal for those of you who are looking at getting started in digital communications. Full-featured mail drop facilities including internal lithium battery back-up.

RRP £129.95

PK-900

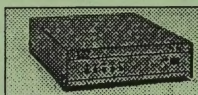


When you're ready to step up from the best selling PK-232MBX,

then take a look at the PK-900. Dual simultaneous ports, switchable via a single keystroke, will still allow the user to receive two signals at the same time. Internal firmware includes SIAM - Signal Identification & Acquisition Mode, automatically identifying the incoming mode of transmission - takes out the guess work! Add the optional 9600 baud modem and you're satellite ready!

RRP £479.95

PK-96



Whilst others are still having a five course

lunch waiting for 1K of data to transfer, you can enjoy the incredible speed of using a new PK-96 and find yourself with hours of free time on your hands! The PK-96 takes over from where the old PK-88 left off. It comes standard with 1200 baud AFSK tone signalling, as well as 9600 baud G3RUH compatible direct frequency modulation, making the PK-96 an ideal high speed terrestrial, or satellite data controller.

RRP £219.95

PC-Pakratt for Windows



Operate the entire range of AEA controllers from one package. Run two controllers at once, run other programmes on your PC (in Windows), whilst controlling your data controller.

Additional features include separate windows for mailbox operation, QSO Logging, file transfers and more.

RRP £79.95

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